

Talks to end steel strike fail in confusion

Misunderstanding led to the failure yesterday of talks to bring about the end of the national steel strike, which is expected to go on for another three weeks. The unions had believed more money was on offer; the BSC negotiators said they were mistaken.

Unions believed extra cash was available

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Trade talks designed to bring an early end to the national steel strike collapsed within minutes yesterday amid bitter recriminations on both sides. The shutdown of state and private sector steelmaking could last another three weeks.

Lay negotiators of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation (ISTC) and the National Union of Blastfurnacemen (NUB) walked out of the first round of full-scale negotiations since the strike began on January 2 after learning the details of the British Steel Corporation's revised offer.

The breakdown came only 20 minutes after Dr David Grieves, BSC's managing director for personnel, told union leaders they were mistaken in thinking that 13 per cent increases were "on the table."

The negotiations had been arranged by Mr William Sirs, general secretary of the ISTC, after secret talks in Luxembourg five days ago. Both he and Mr Hector Smith, the blastfurnacemen's leader, formed the impression that the full package was on offer to all workers from January 1, but BSC maintained last night that all along it had made clear its insistence that 4 per cent of the 13 per cent could be paid only after agreement on productivity deals at local level.

This misunderstanding was fast to the most promising peace initiative since the strike began and union leaders are now privately saying that the shutdown could last until the end of February.

Officials of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas), whose patient efforts to bring the two sides together have failed, have been in touch with British Steel management and are seeking a meeting with the unions. But the prospects of an early resumption of negotiations are poor.

Mr Robert Scholey, BSC's chief executive, accused the ISTC general secretary of "kite flying" in his interpretation of the Luxembourg peace formula and building up expectations among the men that could not be realised by the loss-making state corporation. The lay negotiators attended the talks with badges demanding 20 per cent rises, though this is not official union policy.

Mr Sirs said: "I do not tell lies. The corporation sold to us a proposal that there would be 13 per cent on the table. Scholey was talking about 14 per cent, but that would be the limit."

If the package had been presented originally in the way it was put yesterday, he added, the talks would never have been arranged.

The letter outlining the offer was sent to the steel unions three days ago. It proposes 2 per cent across the board, as offered two months ago; a further general increase of 7 per

cent to "line up with" an agreement on job flexibility, demanding and reformed pay bargaining structures; and a "4 per cent minimum guarantee against which locally determined productivity schemes would be paid."

After informal exchanges in Luxembourg and later by telephone in London, union leaders interpreted this ambiguous wording to mean 9 per cent plus a 4 per cent "enabling agreement" to get local productivity bargaining off the ground.

BSC management, Mr Sirs says, was given several opportunities to disagree with this interpretation but did not.

Executives involved in the talks insist that they did, and Mr Scholey said last night that the public "have to choose" which version of events to believe.

Government ministers reacted to the fresh collapse of negotiations with dismay.

Militant strikers in south Yorkshire may once again threaten the future of millions of pounds worth of plant by withdrawing safety cover, and 1,000 lorry drivers in the North-east have been told by their union not to cross any ISTC picket lines.

Mr Sirs promised last night: "We will prosecute this strike with the greatest degree of intensity within the laws of the country." He gave a warning that if a settlement was not found soon, the pay dispute would be drawn into the campaign against BSC's plant closure programme.

If that happens, it will envelop the nation in a much more disastrous situation than we are in at the moment," he said.

Negotiations with leaders of 11 unions, representing some 70,000 craft and general workers in British Steel are to resume tomorrow but the two main steel unions say they will not join them in accepting a corporation document committing both sides to changes in collective bargaining machinery, a timetable for reducing manning, negotiations, modification of the industry's guaranteed working week, job flexibility, a common wage structure and other concessions.

The ISTC general secretary has drawn up an alternative agreement, which concedes the corporation's targets in more general terms. It talks of achieving international manufacturing standards at ongoing plants to achieve the highest level of productivity, pay and conditions in line with overseas competitors.

That is the sort of package for which BSC has so far offered a 7 per cent general increase.

However, this document has not even been seen by BSC management because of the sudden collapse of negotiations yesterday. It is unlikely to be accepted in its present form because it is too loosely-worded.

Other steel news and photograph, page 2



Photograph by Brian Harris

Lord Soames at Government House, Salisbury, Rhodesia, where a gloomy view of political coercion was presented to him yesterday by his election supervisors. Report, page 4.

Callaghan triumph over leftists

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

After the first meeting yesterday of the commission of inquiry to formulate changes in the organisation of the Labour Party, it was clear that Mr James Callaghan, the Opposition leader, will insist on an investigation into the infiltration of local parties by left-wing extremists.

The three-hour meeting of the inquiry commission, in the Opposition leader's room at the House of Commons, was not without its moments of acrimony, but for Mr Callaghan and the moderate Labour MPs who had complained about the left-wing weighting of the membership, it must be reckoned something of a success.

On paper, the balance was in the commission's eight to five in favour of the left wing, giving a membership that seemed likely to endorse demands for a change in the methods of electing the party leader and drafting the party manifesto, and for the automatic "reelection" of Labour MPs and candidates.

But there is a chance for a "consensus" view to emerge because yesterday the commission (with two absences) agreed to Mr Callaghan's proposal that there should be one chairman, but that the "co-chairmen" and other representatives of all sections of the party will be co-opted on the three subcommittees or "panels" which are to review particular aspects of party organisation.

It was Mr Callaghan who proposed that there should be a triumvirate chairmanship consisting of Mr David Bassett, general secretary of the General

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Abortion compromise of 24 weeks likely

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

Members of Parliament on both sides of the abortion argument yesterday appeared to be moving towards a compromise where a pregnancy could be ended if it had lasted for no more than 24 weeks. That compares with the 28 weeks in Mr David Steel's 1967 Act, and the 20 weeks proposed in Mr John Corrie's Abortion (Amendment) Bill, which was before the House of Commons yesterday.

The main argument for 24 weeks was based on the view that medical opinion appeared to be saying that before that date the foetus would not be capable of sustaining an independent existence. Progress made yesterday clearly indicates that the present Bill, whether amended or not, has little chance of being enacted unless the Government, as seems unlikely, comes to its rescue.

In the closing moments of the sitting, after almost five hours of peaceful and well-argued debate, there was a sudden rush of blood to the heads of some of the more extreme opponents of the Bill in the public gallery. As attendants leapt into action to quell the uproar, one group of protesters hung a lengthy banner over the edge of the gallery and there were shouts of "Women will not obey your Bill", and "Women's choice".

Most of the 25 or so women involved were marched out of the gallery more or less peacefully, but a youth appeared to be picking up an unnecessary show of strength as he struggled and kicked against efforts to remove him. Within two minutes peace was restored.

BL workers seem unwilling to back Robinson strike

By David Felton and
Donald Macintyre

Feelings at BL's Longbridge plant in Birmingham last night appeared to be running strongly against the engineering workers' strike, in support of Mr Derek Robinson, the dismissed communist union convenor, due to start next week.

Workers leaving the Austin Morris plant claimed that 80 per cent of the work force were opposed to the strike. There were reports that Mr Robinson's toolroom colleagues had called on the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers to hold a ballot on the strike.

The union's Birmingham West District Committee, which met last night, is to convene a meeting of more than 200 shop stewards at Longbridge on Monday.

Mr Bert Benson, the district secretary, said he was expecting shop stewards meanwhile to have taken soundings through sectional meetings of their locals of the membership. He would take action on any complaints that stewards had not held meetings in their sections.

He said: "After Monday's meeting, I am confident that we shall be in a situation to reiterate that there will be support for the strike."

If the strike by 8,000 engineering workers goes ahead, members of the Transport and General Workers' Union at Longbridge will be expected to give their support and not cross picket lines.

The TGWU suspended strike action at the end of last year

Afghanistan leader says the Russians will stay

From Kuldip Nayar
Kabul, Feb 8

President Babrak Karmal of Afghanistan has said that it is neither possible nor necessary to set any time limit for the withdrawal of Soviet forces from his country.

"They are here to consolidate the gains of our revolution, protect our land and secure peace in the region," he said. "As long as there are dangers from outside, the Russians will stay."

Mr Karmal is not opposed to any regional initiative which does not want General Zia ul-Haq of Pakistan to play any role in it since, according to the Afghan President, he is "a lackey of America and of Zionist forces."

In an exclusive interview, Mr Karmal told me that the Russians would leave only when proper conditions were created, and when "all signs of aggression against us are eliminated."

He was quite firm on the need for a Soviet presence in the country and gave me the impression that the withdrawal of Russian forces came nowhere in his priorities.

The two-hour interview took place in the same palace where I had interviewed the late President Mohamed Daoud six years ago. The palace is heavily guarded by Russian soldiers and it has been named People's House.

When pressed to spell out conditions for the Russian withdrawal, he said: "The day reactionary Pakistan, Chauvinist China, imperialist America and Britain and Zionist Egypt are defeated in their ugly plan to dismember Afghanistan, the Russians will go back."

Mr Karmal is austere in his dress and forthright in his expression. He is a chain-smoker and while I was with him smoked only expensive American cigarettes.

Whenever he referred to Russian troops, he would say: "A limited contingent has come." Asked if this was a correct description for a large Soviet force, Mr Karmal said: "This is propagated by the BBC, the Voice of America and the Western media. I tell you with full responsibility that the contingent is very small." (The Russian troops in Afghanistan put at between 90,000 and 95,000.)

Explaining how the Russian intervention took place, Mr Karmal said that the first approach was made by the late Hafizullah Amin about December 15. Open and underground "progressive elements" forced him to do so. "He went along because he did not want his mask of a CIA agent to fall. When we took over, we endorsed his request. It is the same way as you (India) went to Bangladesh at the request of the people to stop Pakistan's atrocities."

Mr Karmal alleged that there had been a joint plot by the Americans, the Chinese and the Pakistanis to attack Afghanistan on January 6. "But the Russian forces which arrived on December 27 foiled the plot. Ten days later it would have been too late."

He dwelt at length on his theory of conspiracy and mentioned Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Israel as "partners of America, China and Pakistan."

In fact, the plan of the Western imperialists and Zionists included Pakistan's scheme to take revenge on India for the liberation of Bangladesh. Islamabad wanted to grab Kashmir, Mr Karmal said.

"Pakistan is a springboard of imperialists," he added. "The Americans and the Chinese are pouring in their arms. Ships after ships are coming to Karachi to unload weapons and the Karakorum road is being used by the Chinese to send armaments to Islamabad."

"These weapons are being distributed among the bandits who are being trained by the

Continued on page 4, col 3

French rejection ends US hope for summit on Soviet intervention

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, Feb 8

An American proposal that the foreign ministers of the four main West European countries and the United States meet in Bonn to discuss a joint Western response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan has failed because of objections by the French.

The United States had suggested that the foreign ministers of Britain, France, Italy and West Germany meet Mr Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary of State on February 20, the deadline set by President Carter for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and of Zionist forces.

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refused to take part in the proposed meeting because President Giscard d'Estaing wants to avoid at all costs being part of an American-oriented pressure block (ian Murray write

The French Foreign Ministry said this evening that France had never been formally invited to the meeting on February 20. "They have never been invited any time, and if there is a question of there being one the French Minister of Foreign Affairs would not participate in it," spokesman said.

While deprecating the Soviet presence in Afghanistan, the French President feels that the interests of peace are ill-served by Western Europe seeming to lose its identity by becoming a sounding board for American opinions.

France has already told the Russians that the invasion of Afghanistan is "unacceptable".

A timely explanation of how that timetable could be carried out were the only criteria by which Soviet good intentions should be judged, M Jean Francois Poucet, the Foreign Minister, has said.

The French coolness towards the bombing proposed by Mr Vance should not, therefore, be viewed as an indication that France condones what has happened in Afghanistan. It is merely a further manifestation of France's traditional need to be heard as an independent voice.

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Japan excluded: Mr Saburo Okita, the Japanese Foreign Minister, told a House of Representatives budget committee in Tokyo that since "no formal invitation had been extended to us, there is no reason that Japan should invite us to attend" (Our Tokio Correspondent).

Mr Okita indicated that a separate American-Japanese talk on sanctions against the Soviet Union was a possibility.

American regret: Officials in Washington were disappointed by France's decision not to attend the proposed meeting. They said that West Germany had suggested the meeting.

French fear block: France has

Denning visit to Oxford is cancelled after protest plan

From Our Correspondent
Oxford

Blackwells, the Oxford bookshop, has cancelled a signing session today by Lord Denning, the Master of the Rolls.

A group known as the Oxford Student Trades Union Liaison Committee had called for a mass demonstration outside the shop in protest at Lord Denning's visit.

HOME NEWS

BSC plans for £1,000m rundown to keep within Government's £450m cash limit for next financial year

By Peter Hill
Industrial Editor

Plans are being prepared by the British Steel Corporation for a rundown of stocks worth £1,000m, disposal of assets and a paring of investment planned for next year.

The measures have been prompted by the need to remain within the Government's set cash limit of £450m for the corporation's next financial year and in the face of the Government's refusal to fund any operating losses in the 1980-81 financial year.

Sir Charles Villiers, BSC chairman, said yesterday: "We are on a survival course".

Faced with a further protraction of the strike, after the collapse of yesterday's talks with the steel unions, BSC's losses, which are running at £17m a week, will mount further. Production ceased on January 2.

The Government insists that BSC should be held to its break-even target in the next financial year which starts in six weeks; but it is clear that the longer the strike continues the more unrealistic the target becomes, particularly since the costs of starting up production and regaining its lost share of the market will be considerable.

Hadfields proposes strike fund deal

From Our Northern Industrial Correspondent

Mr Derek Norton, chairman of Hadfields, one of Sheffield's biggest private sector steelmakers, has come up with a proposal designed to earn his company dispensation from the steel strike.

He travelled to London to offer Mr William Sirs, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, a deal in which Hadfields would give profits from steel production to an appropriate strike hardship fund in return for permission to resume production.

At the time of closure Hadfields was making about £5 profit per ton of steel produced in the last full week some 500,000 tons of steel was made. Production at that level would indicate £25,000 a week for the strike fund.

Before departing for London Mr Norton said: "It is not just the fault of the pickets that we are in this situation.

Drivers told not to cross picket lines

From Ronald Kershaw
Sheffield

Thousands of lorry drivers in the North-east of England were last night instructed by their union not to cross steel workers' picket lines. Mr Joe Mills, regional secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, issuing the instruction, said he hoped it would help to bring the steel strike to a quick conclusion.

Mr Mills said that for the past two or three weeks lorry drivers had faced much hostility from pickets and had received no firm direction as to how they should act.

He said: "They have had enough in the north-east region. We think the steel strike is a worthwhile cause, and they have been told to stay away from steel plants until the strike is over."

In South Yorkshire, reports that engineering firms in the Sheffield area were in danger of ending production were questioned by the Engineering Employers' Sheffield Association. Mr Nicholas Kemp, director of the association, said the vast majority of engineering firms were coping with the situation.

A Leeds and district chamber of commerce and industry report on a questionnaire sent to engineering firms showed that 15 firms were likely to turn out of steel production this week, 28 firms in four weeks, six firms in six weeks, 12 firms in eight weeks, and 14 firms in more than eight weeks.

The chamber said that employment and production would be affected within two weeks and the number of companies would be affected by the end of the month. Some small engineering firms have spoken of the possibility of bankruptcy and there was general concern about losing export orders.

Callaghan-Foot clash over changes in executive

Continued from page 1

Mr Callaghan said that at regional conferences he had sensed that there was a strong demand for a change in the NEC composition and he thought that it should have high priority. Mr Foot disagreed and had the support of several others.

At another point, where the commission discussed whether certain documents coming before them should be "classified", Mr Callaghan insisted that the reports on "enquiry" by Trotskyists and the Militant Tendency should be considered and made public.

There was a clash between Mr Callaghan and Mr Foot early in the discussion about the emphasis to be placed on changing the composition of the national executive, where the moderates of the party want a stronger representation for the "grassroots" in the constituency section.

Sir Charles said: "It will be extremely difficult and may turn out to be impossible. I do not see us getting any more money beyond the £450m. Any company faced with this situation has to reduce working capital, its stocks and make disposals, and we shall have to start winding down the stocks."

BSC has stocks estimated at £1,000m, embracing coking coal, scrap metal, finished and semi-finished steel, which will be the main targets. It is also planning a further major programme of cost-cutting measures which could produce savings up to £100m.

Discussions are taking place on the disposal of some of the corporation's non-steelmaking interests. The most advanced negotiations revolve round its constructional engineering and fabrication subsidiary of Redpath, Dorman Long, where discussions with a Dutch group are expected to end in an agreement to sell in the next few weeks.

BSC is also involved in talks with a number of potential purchasers for some of the operations of its BSC (Chemicals) subsidiary. The list will be extended to other subsidiaries and the National Union of Blastfurnace men asking them to agree to immediate arbitration in the dispute or, failing that, to agree to the setting up of a court of inquiry once the dispute had been resolved.

It is Villiers's fault as well. We want to get this dispute over.

"We are incensed that our company should be dragged into a dispute in which it has no part. We worked two-and-a-half years to get this company right, and we fail to see why outside factors should destroy all the hard work we have done".

A second undertaking was contained in a letter Mr Norton sent yesterday to all ISTC members employed by Hadfields assuring them that if they returned to work the company would not dispatch steel to customers. It was signed "Yours sincerely, Derek Norton" and, in brackets, "Desperate Dan", a nickname he has acquired during the past week.

Earlier this week Mr Norton, one of the Sheffield steel industry's most colourful figures, led directors, staff and workers from Hadfields to picket British Steel Corporation and ISTC headquarters in London. After

a brief meeting with Sir Charles Villiers, chairman of the BSC, Mr Norton emerged in sympathy with the ISTC negotiators.

The day before that, Mr Norton announced a board decision to withhold payment from the Government of income tax, NHS contributions and VAT until the end of the strike, as a protest at the Government's doorkeeper was bitten on the

SDLP's deputy leader, is to take charge of relations with Westminister.

Mr Austin Currie, the former chief whip whose political career in the SDLP suffered a serious setback last year, is returning to the front bench to take charge of coordination of relations with parties in the republic.

Mr Currie said: "The SDLP

sees the problem in three dimensions: the Northern Ireland dimension, the Irish dimension and the British dimension. We want a lasting solution and therefore it is vitally important that these two additional dimensions be brought in."

Mr Norton has earned an accolade from the ISTC strike committee in South Yorkshire as "the best managing director in Britain", but last night the strike committee was making no observations on his latest offer.

The general view was that it was a matter best left to Mr Sirs and the National Executive Council to decide.

Mr Norton has made no secret of the fact that Hadfields is experiencing financial problems and could be forced to close by a prolonged strike.

Mr Dafydd Wigley, Plaid Cymru MP for Caernarvon, issued a map showing 24 possible sites for test drilling. He said that farmers had been approached by geologists for permission to explore on their land, and that the reason given was that they were taking gravity level readings.

"I hereby give a warning that the people of this area will not tolerate it being turned into a nuclear dustbin," he added. His party's constituency committee was to discuss the matter last night and it was likely that a protest rally would be organized forthwith.

The geologists are employed by the Institute of Geological Sciences, an offshoot of the National Environmental Research Council. An NERC official explained yesterday that Gwynedd and Powys were among four areas designated last month for possible underground storage of long-life nuclear wastes.

There was no question of any drilling taking place at this stage, he emphasized, because that would require planning permission through a public inquiry.

Three other areas had been selected for similar surveys in Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Hereford and Worcester, and Somerset. MPs in the constituencies concerned had received letters from Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, advising them of the reconnaissance.

Permission for test drilling has so far been granted in only one area, in Caithness, Scotland. A public inquiry into similar plans for Galloway, in southwest Scotland, is due to start shortly.

But there have been unpleasant incidents. Mr Mick Skelton, strike coordinator in Corby, had the wheels of his car loosened while on picket duty. One came off and he was driving with his car while it was outside his house. The police are making investigations.

Strikers are finding it difficult and slow to get any supplementary benefits to which they are entitled, he said. "We think their [the DHSS] are deliberately scaling. Peoples' attitudes are hardening".

Commenting on the pay offer, Mr Skelton said he thought it was scandalous. "It is an insult to us, especially after all this time. Now the picketing will be strengthened considerably. Peoples' attitudes are hardening".

Strikers are buying in bulk at cost price in a Corby church hall.

Photograph by David Jones

Catholics to take Irish Dimension initiative

From Christopher Thomas
Belfast

Roman Catholic politicians in Northern Ireland are to take the initiative in Dublin and Westminster over their ideal for an "Irish dimension" to be included in the Government's proposed political formula in Ulster.

The move emerged yesterday as the non-sectarian Alliance Party declared that it would be joining the "parallel conference" at Stormont which is discussing subjects relevant to the Irish dimension: the economy, cross-border security and the EEC.

The Unionists are boycotting

the secondary conference but in the eyes of the Social Democ-

cratic and Labour Party it is

at least as important as the primary conference being held

on the province's political future.

So Ulster has two confer-

ences: one on the prospects for

power devolution, which is

being held at Parliament Buildings, Stormont, involving the

Democratic Unionist, Alliance

Party and the SDLP; the other

at Stormont Castle, a few hun-

dred yards away, discussing

matters of cross-border interest

and attended by only the SDLP

and Alliance Party.

The main conference meets

again on February 18 and the

second conference is due to

meet soon afterwards. The

Roman Catholic political leaders

consider the "parallel conference"

to be equally important

because there is no restriction

on the subjects that can be

raised.

Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secre-

tary of State for Northern Ire-

land, has given credibility to

the "secondary conference" by

promising to report to the

Cabinet on its outcome.

Mr Seamus Mallon, the

SDLP's deputy leader, is to take

charge of relations with West-

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Farmers complain of decline but minister says they can compete

By Nicholas Timmins

Net agricultural output fell by 3 per cent last year, with farmers' incomes down 17 per cent in real terms, bank borrowings up 30 per cent to an estimated £2,200m, more than 70 per cent higher than in 1977, and productivity down, according to figures published yesterday by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The decline came after the harsh winter of 1979 and a cold, wet spring, and in spite of record harvests of cereals and sugar-beet.

The figures, published in the Annual Review of Agriculture, were described as "sorry reading" by Mr Richard Butler, president of the National Farmers' Union, who called for prompt government action to stop a bad situation getting worse.

But they brought a robust reply from Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, who blamed the Government's resistance to devaluing the "green pound". There had not been time since May for the new Government's policies to have much impact in 1979, he said in a parliamentary written reply.

"Since then we have taken a number of significant steps to improve producers' incomes. We have announced three decreases in the price of the green pound, two increases in the price of milk and substantial increases in the hill livestock compensatory allowances," he said.

"The devolutions, combined with the strength of sterling, have removed the discrimination against British agriculture that has taken place over recent years. The industry is now in a position to compete fairly in the European market."

Whatever the future, the report paints a bleak picture of the output.

1979. Costs were up 13 per cent, but prices by only 11 per cent. Farmers' incomes dropped in real terms by 17 per cent after a 31 per cent fall in 1977, with 1978 incomes estimated at £1,193,000 or 51 per cent down on 1978.

The dairy herd and milk production increased slightly. But the beef herd fell by nearly 3 per cent. Home produced beef was down by 1 per cent, and the lamb crop by 3 per cent despite an increase in the sheep breeding herd. The pig breeding herd began to contract again, and although production of pig meat was up in 1979, it is expected to fall this year. Egg production fell, and less land was again devoted to horticultural crops.

Bank borrowings rose sharply, and while some of it was for land purchase and building and works investment, borrowing for ordinary farming purposes also rose. Interest payments were estimated at £318m, more than double in 1977.

Labor productivity declined by an estimated 2 per cent, after an increase of 31 per cent increase over the past decade and an increase of 8 per cent in 1978, while the number of whole-time workers declined again, as did the number of farms, to about 257,000.

Large concerns, which account for just over a tenth of the total, produced nine tenths of the output.

Mr Butler said that with costs up, income down, interest charges and inflation high, "many farmers and growers will face acute financial difficulties this year".

On Thursday the EEC Commission proposed that guaranteed prices should rise by an average of only 2.4 per cent this year, against the farmers' demand for a 7.9 per cent increase.



It's a dog's life for this mastiff on the opening day of Cruft's Dog Show at Earls Court, London, yesterday.

DPP to give evidence in public

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

Sir Thomas Hetherington, Director of Public Prosecutions, is to give evidence in public to the House of Commons Select Committee on Home Affairs about deaths in police custody next week.

He has provided the committee with a written memorandum. His appearance next Thursday, as foreshadowed in *The Times*, represents a shift of opinion in the Government which has maintained that law officers should be outside the committee's remit.

Further evidence from other bodies indicates the committee's widening of interest in the subject.

The Police Federation, which will appear on Monday to answer questions about the law relating to public order, processions and public meetings, is also giving evidence in public on deaths in police custody.

The inspectors have considered new proposals and the continuance of courses in the light of criteria laid down during a period of expansion, the circular says. In the coming period of level funding it would be necessary to re-examine those criteria.

The department would consult local authorities about its proposed further education in the maintained sector at £375m in 1980-81, which is about the same as in 1979-80, but nine per cent less than the local authorities were asking for.

The introduction of full cost fees for foreign students next September could have a dramatic effect on provision.

MP supports parents over sex education

By Our Education Correspondent

Mr George Gardiner, a Conservative backbench MP, has tabled a clause to the Government's Education Bill which would give parents the right to know when their children are being taught in sex education classes, and to withdraw them if they wish.

As Gollancz, Mr Burnett said: "The author has trapped herself with the protocol and the Assistant Keeper of the Archives has justifiably complained. It was Mrs Bennett's gaif, and she is upset about it: it is a serious and scholarly work."

"There is no question of the Palace trying to censor the book. Mrs Bennett is entitled to draw her conclusions from the material she has researched. Sir Robin is interested in matters of fact, and I hope to discuss with him next week the corrections that might be made in the second edition."

"According to the Queen's Archives, it is, of course, a privilege and people are expected to abide by the rules. And the archive office will point out any errors in a completed manuscript."

At Windsor last night Sir Robin said: "We never take it upon ourselves to censor a book. The archives, however, are private and so we ask people to whom we give permission to research here to agree to show us their completed work. In this case the agreement was not respected."

"I don't think he has any right to order changes, but if

Author drops a brick and down comes a ton from the royal archives

By Trevor Fishlock

A new history of Queen Victoria's children is to be corrected in its second edition after an approach to the publishers by Sir Robin Mackworth Young, Assistant Keeper to the Queen's Archives at Windsor.

The book, *Queen Victoria's Children*, was written by Daphne Bevan and published a week ago by Gollancz. The first edition is almost sold out and the publishers have agreed to print a second. But before that happens there will be negotiations between Sir Robin and Mr David Burnett, Gollancz's deputy managing director, over changes in the text that Sir Robin would like.

The root of the matter is Mrs Bennett's breaking of a golden rule. Like all those permitted to research in the royal archives she signed an undertaking to show her completed manuscript to the archive office. But she forgot to do so.

"Now Sir Robin has come down on me like a ton of bricks," she said at her home in Cambridge yesterday. "It is entirely my fault and I have no excuse. I have stepped out of line and if you step out of line with such people, I'm afraid you are for it. And, of course, there are one or two people in the literary world who would like to see me chopped up."

"I have been told of some of Sir Robin's complaints and they do seem to be niggling little things. He really is just quibbling. And the things he is complaining about were not drawn from royal archive material. They came from other sources."

"I don't think he has any right to order changes, but if

he wants some minor corrections or a few words softened I shall be happy to help; but where my documentary evidence shows I am right I shall naturally stand by what I wrote."

"My book is a happy book, showing what excellent parents Albert and Victoria were. I sent the Queen a copy and had a lovely warm reply."

"But Sir Robin seems upset and so I must try to placate him. I'm sure he is a reasonable man at heart."

As Gollancz, Mr Burnett said: "The author has trapped herself with the protocol and the Assistant Keeper of the Archives has justifiably complained. It was Mrs Bennett's gaif, and she is upset about it: it is a serious and scholarly work."

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"I don't think he has any right to order changes, but if

Postman stole boat people fund donations

By Arthur Reed

In an effort to reduce operational costs, British Airways is to convert several hundred of its light commercial vehicles to run on propane gas.

An investigation into the merits of driving on gas rather than petrol had been made over three months by Mr Dick Hartfield, the airline's general manager, motor transport and ground equipment.

In November, his company Rover cars were converted to run on propane.

It will cost between £250 and £300 to convert each British Airways vehicle to run on gas.

Many parents have been shocked by its explicit treatment of taboo subjects.

Postman stole boat people fund donations

From Our Correspondent Cardiff

Villagers in the South Wales valleys who are facing their second serious flood in six weeks said yesterday that they were living in constant fear because of lack of action by the authorities.

After a further 24 hours of torrential rain large areas of South Wales from the Neath valley in West Glamorgan to Gwent were threatened by floods. Late yesterday the water was beginning to subside, although flood alerts were still in operation in some areas.

But, with more rain forecast many villagers believe the situation could get worse. According to the meteorological office at Cardiff airport, the average rainfall for February is less than two-and-a-half inches. So far this month nearly three inches have fallen.

The village was cut off yesterday morning after a culvert carrying the small river Sebog was

broken by a landslip.

The Rhondda. At Treborth residents protested at a meeting arranged at short notice with representatives of the Welsh Water Authority and local councils.

Mr Graham Prosser, chairman of the village flood prevention committee, said it was a very angry meeting. "People are living in fear of their lives," he said. It would cost about £350,000 to make their village safe. They had been assured that a full inspection of the work required would be carried out on Monday.

The 250 villagers of Rhondda, who have still not recovered from the last inundation, on December 27, were facing a full emergency alert which is not due to be lifted until tonight if there is no more rain.

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Two Ulster men were remanded on Dublin kidnap charges

From Our Correspondent

Belfast

Two Ulster men were remanded in custody at the Special Criminal Court in Dublin yesterday on charges arising from the kidnapping last month of a bank manager's wife and two daughters.

Henry Doherty and Vincent Feagan, both aged 21, with Dublin addresses, will appear in court on March 3. The court rejected applications for bail because of the probability that they would not stand trial.

Mr Doherty and Mr Feagan each face three charges: robbery of £30,000 from Mr Thomas Scully, an Allied Irish Bank manager, in Dublin; defrauding £100,000 with menaces from him; and falsely imprisoning his daughter, Annie, aged 17.

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WEST EUROPE

Siege ambassador rolled down stairs with clothes ablaze

From Harry Debelius

Madrid, Feb 8

Señor Marcelino Oreja, the Spanish Foreign Minister, dispelled all doubts about how the fatal fire started at the Spanish Embassy in Guatemala City last week, answering questions in Parliament, he rejected right-wing allegations that Spain's embassies are under attack because the Madrid Government is secretly trying to overthrow certain Latin American regimes.

Señor Oreja's remarks were made during a meeting of the foreign relations committee of the Congress of Deputies (Lower House), but the text was distributed today.

He quoted to the deputies the account given by Señor Maximo Cajal, the Ambassador of the occupation, police assault and fire which resulted in 39 deaths in Guatemala City.

When against his express wishes the police broke into the embassy, the group which had taken over the building retreated with their hostages, to Señor Cajal's office, a room of about 23 square yards area.

Señor Cajal stood near the door, as the police hacked at it with axes, and with a pistol at his back, repeated his request that the police should desist. When the police broke down the door, one of the extremists threw a petrol bomb which did not ignite.

Nureyev dispute prevents Paris ballet tour in US

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, Feb 8

The planned month-long tour of the United States by France's leading dance company, the Paris Opéra Ballet, has been called off. The principal reason has been the failure so far to find a way in which the dancers will accept Rudolf Nureyev as a guest star in the company.

The 154 dancers who make up the Opéra Ballet have become increasingly angry and militant in recent months. They consider themselves treated as second-class citizens by the Opéra management even though every performance plays to audiences which average 103 per cent of the available seating.

In the first instance, the dancers believe that ballet is put second to opera in the organized programme, with performances slotted in simply to fill the holes left when the opera season has been agreed.

They are even more concerned that as dancers they take second place to imported stars. They argue that the management is reactionary and not prepared to try new styles, and is unwilling to listen to their point of view about choreographers or suitable ballets.

The proposed tour to the United States was causing trouble on most of these counts. For one thing the programme, to include *Le Fantôme de*

Film showing police torture seized in Spain

From Our Correspondent

Madrid, Feb 8

Military authorities seized all available copies of a new Spanish film about a crime involving police torture, which has been selected to be shown in the Berlin Film Festival this month.

The film, *The Crime of Guenca*, tells the story of two men from the central Spanish province of Guenca, who in 1913 were sentenced to long prison terms for the murder of a shepherd, after being tortured into confessing to the non-existent murder.

Police acting on orders from the military censors of the film in Madrid, Barcelona, Seville and Bilbao this week, without giving any reason, according to Señor Alfredo Mata, the producer. Reuter.

Mayor loses fight against home for the handicapped

From Ian Murray

Paris, Feb 8

Mr Georges Gabin, the 70-year-old bachelor mayor of Vestrict-Candiac in the Gard has been stopped by the State Council from trying to close a holiday home for the handicapped in his beautiful village.

The home was opened in 1973 when the National Belgian League for the Aid of Cerebral Paralysis bought the little chateau which fronts on the Place Montcalm, just opposite the town hall. Since then it has been in regular use by groups of about a dozen handicapped children and young people, who have come for a fortnight's break in the south of France.

Increasingly, however, Mr Gabin and a few of the village's 503 inhabitants began to resent the colony and things came to a head when the village pump clogged up. Mr Gabin went to the administrative tribunal in Nimes to ask for the colony's licence to be withdrawn.

The village pump argument was the best one Mr Gabin had politically. Otherwise he argued that village children took fright at the sight of the handicapped people and that pregnant women were badly affected whenever they saw them.

Another tossed a lighted match on the floor, and the ambassador stamped it out. Then the occupiers threw another fire bomb at the police. The whole room caught fire and the bomb exploded.

The ambassador then threw himself through the now open door, and rolled down the stairs in flames. Shot were fired from inside the burning room, but apparently not by the police.

The ambassador managed to extinguish his burning clothes, and was taken to the local police station and then to a hospital.

The only other survivor who reached the hospital was one of the farm workers who had occupied the embassy. He was kidnapped from the hospital last Friday and his bullet-riddled body was later dumped to the university campus.

During the committee meeting, Señor Blas Pizar, the leader of the New Force party, called for the creation of a committee to investigate whether Spain's embassies in Central America were carrying out their real mission.

His proposal was rejected, and a Communist one, approving the Government's decision to break off diplomatic relations with Guatemala and persisting in Latin America of regimes which do not respect human rights", was approved.

Nureyev dispute prevents Paris ballet tour in US

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, Feb 8

Opera, Sylvia and La Sphide, was considered by the dancers too hackneyed. Worse, the inclusion of Rudolf Nureyev seemed a prerequisite of the tour.

Negotiations with the dancers had little success. Nureyev brought his own ballet, *Manfred*—a Byron biography to Tchaikovsky's music—to Paris last year and it was not a success. The ballet critic of *Le Monde* said it was "a monument to boredom in hideous sets and costumes". *Manfred* was to be in the American tour.

Nureyev, who had broken his metatarsus (bones in the foot) before the opening, left the main part to Jean Guizerix. Yet on the posters it was Nureyev's name which appeared in bold type, while all the French names were in the small print.

This produced a clash of artistic personalities which ended in today's statement by the Metropolitan Opera in New York and the Kennedy Centre in Washington that because of the uncertainties caused by the demands of the stars of the *Opera*, the tour planned for April to May, would have to be cancelled.

In its statement, the Paris *Opéra* said that its ballet stars had contested, contrary to the conditions of their individual contracts as well as of their collective agreement, the possibility for the *Opéra* to call on invited artists.

Portugal fixes food price rise of 15 pc

Lisbon, Feb 8.—The Portuguese Government today fixed new basic food prices at an average of about 15 per cent above last year's prices.

Senor Basilio Horta, the Trade and Tourism Minister, told a news conference that the new "shopping basket" list compiled by the country's first right-wing Government since the 1974 revolution, would take effect with its publication in the *Official Journal*, perhaps on Monday.

The biggest increase is in the price of sugar which will go up by 25 per cent. The smallest increase was for pasteurised milk, which goes up by 10 per cent. The price increases compare with 18 per cent last year, 23 per cent in 1977 and 22 per cent in 1976.

Dr Francisco Sá Carneiro, the Prime Minister, is due to go on television and radio on Wednesday to explain his government's tough austerity programme.

Asked when he had come to Afghanistan from Czechoslovakia, where he was his country's envoy, Mr Karmal said that he reached Kabul three months before the January change. "I was working underground in Kabul and I, along with my comrades, made the recent revolution possible." (This is generally contested because Mr Karmal is said to have reached Kabul on the morning of December 28.)

M Karmal had some support on the local council, over which he has presided for the past 33 years. But some members were so angry at M Karmal's stand that they resigned, forcing by-elections which meant that the mayor no longer has a majority in his own council chamber.

The Nimes tribunal rejected M Karmal's request. He decided then to take the case to the State Council, which yesterday gave judgment in favour of the colony. Only for reasons of safety, health or local welfare could the licence be withdrawn, it ruled.

Most of the villagers seem far from sad that their local council has lost its case before the State Council. M Jean-Louis Bogart, who runs the colony, says that he has fruitful cultural and sporting contacts with the local people and he is glad they will continue.

The village pump argument was the best one M Karmal had politically. Otherwise he argued that village children took fright at the sight of the handicapped people and that pregnant women were badly affected whenever they saw them.

OVERSEAS



At the edge of a village near Kabul two amphibious troop carriers of the Soviet Army stand in position behind a snow-covered emplacement.

Moscow adds its most advanced weapons to Kabul arsenal

From Robert Fisk.

Kabul, Feb 8

The Soviet Union, which has continued its military build-up around Kabul with two Ilyushin 76 transport aircraft filled with military and civilian personnel, has brought some of its most sophisticated weapons into Afghanistan.

New self-propelled automatic anti-aircraft guns are being deployed around the capital, and many of the Soviet helicopter gunships now have complex night-sight equipment which enables bombaimers to see in the dark.

The weight of Soviet armour which is crossing the Amu

Darya river at two points and heading south across the Hindu Kush mountains is unprecedented. Lorries fitted with multiple-round rocket launchers, the so-called Stalin Organs, are being moved to Kabul and the number of T-72 tanks, the latest medium battle tanks in the Soviet arsenal, deployed here, has increased sharply in the past two days.

There are now 12 T-72s on a five-mile section of the Salang Pass and several dozen more are parked on the northern foothills of the Hindu Kush near the village of Dush. Around the centre of Kabul, where Soviet armour has rarely been seen in the past few

weeks, a number of BMD tracked troop carriers can be seen. These vehicles are fitted with mounted tracks for Soviet anti-tank missiles and include modifications enabling them to be amphibious.

Many of the new anti-aircraft vehicles have been placed in the snow near Kabul international airport. Tracked armoured carriers mounted with four heavy machine guns, they are fitted with radar and are self-contained anti-aircraft units. Nato has nothing to match them.

The Mi24 helicopter gunships

that have appeared over Kabul and Jalalabad are equipped

with four rockets on fixed pods underneath. Optique plastic domes have also been fitted to the underneath of the hulls and give the aircraft a curious appearance.

The domes are believed to contain television X-Ray cameras which allows the co-pilot to receive clear pictures of the ground when it is dark. Such equipment would be of obvious use in attacking insurgent positions in the mountains at night.

Strangest of all the new equipment in Kabul are the large steel cylinders, perhaps 50 ft long, mounted on the back of tank transporter lorries. They resemble the containers

that the Russians usually use to carry ground-to-air missiles, although close-to-air inspection—which is not easy—suggests that they are empty at present.

With the latest reinforcements, the Soviet military strength here probably stands at about 100,000 men—more than five divisions, each with a complement of more than 220 battle tanks.

An East European diplomat was in Kabul yesterday that it might take as many as 200,000 troops to crush guerrilla resistance in Afghanistan, and even that might prove a conservative estimate. Russian soldiers and equipment are still coming across the northern frontier.

The ostensible purpose of our visit was to inspect the 56 houses abandoned in 1979, the year when the 200 families then living in Hebron fled after a massacre in which 67 Jews were slaughtered. Some are still deserted and others occupied by Arabs.

Gush Emunim, the group in the vanguard of settlement activity in the West Bank, has demanded that 26 families from Kfar Arba should be allowed to move into the abandoned buildings, all of which are streets now occupied exclusively by Arabs.

A number of politicians described the controversial plan as a "suitable Zionist response" to the killing. It is understood that the issue will be raised when the Cabinet meets on Sunday.

Mr William Brian Pigott, 37, son of a former Conservative MP; Countess Anna Margaretta Wachtmeister, aged 31, daughter of the Swedish Ambassador to the United States; and a South African Miss Chair van Lingen, aged 31, are charged with having 70 grams (about 2.5oz) of cannabis and two grams of cocaine, and with dealing in cocaine.

They were freed on bail until their trial on March 7.

Reuter.

Afghan President attacks Pakistan

Continued from page 1

Pakistanis, Americans and Chinese to intrude into our territory. These bandits are raping our women, killing our children, destroying our bridges, roads and houses and creating disorder".

The Afghan President said that seven groups of anti-revolutionary forces were operating from Pakistan. They had established 20 bases and 50 camps. "Bandits have been trained and equipped by Islamic

Arab states, particularly Saudi Arabia, and are now operating in the north of the country.

Asked if he would support the proposal that the United States and the Soviet Union should now be asked to leave the region, his reply was:

"Why are you equating imperialist America with the peaceful and progressive Soviet Union? The black record of America is clear from what it did in Chile, Vietnam and elsewhere to subjugate the people. On the other hand there is not a single example of Soviet domination after the October revolution."

Mr Karmal said that he was not opposed to a regional approach, or collective security. "But the principles of *Panchsheel* (accord) should apply to any such arrangement so that there is no interference with other's domestic affairs".

He did not favour Giscard's proposal for creating a peacekeeping force of Indian, Pakistani and Iranian soldiers.

"Who is General Zia? When a proposal like this comes from him, we think that there must be some ulterior motive. One should consider about Afghanistan, who does not stop meddling in our affairs and sending bandits into our territory?"

Mr Karmal proposed a joint approach on the part of Russia, India and Afghanistan. "We have similar outlooks and our politics are progressive. We have no imperialistic designs against anyone, unlike America and Britain."

Asked when he had come to Afghanistan from Czechoslovakia, where he was his country's envoy, Mr Karmal said that he reached Kabul three months before the January change. "I was working underground in Kabul and I, along with my comrades, made the recent revolution possible." (This is generally contested because Mr Karmal is said to have reached Kabul on the morning of December 28.)

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Gloomy view of Rhodesia coercion

From Nicholas Ashford

Salisbury, Feb 8

A picture of intensive political intimidation, especially in Rhodesia's three eastern provinces, has been presented to Lord Soames, the Governor, by the British election supervisors operating in the country's eight provinces. The supervisors have apportioned most of the blame to Mr Robert Mugabe's Zanu (PF) Party and its military wing, Zanla.

Lord Soames was given this report on the situation at a meeting with the election supervisors in Salisbury today. The overall picture he has been presented with is a gloomy one, and must make him consider whether to use his new powers to combat intimidation. These

supervisors have been subjected to extensive intimidation, mainly by Zanu (PF) and Zanla. However, the situation in Umvati was satisfactory, as in most other urban areas around the country.

campaigning or even suspend parties in areas where violence and coercion are taking place.

The three worst affected provinces are, according to the supervisors, Mashonaland East, Manicaland and Victoria. In Mashonaland East the Mudzore, Mhore and Mwera areas are reported to be "completely in the grip of Zanla".

It is virtually impossible for

parties other than Zanu (PF) to hold meetings there. Bishop

Abel Muzorewa's United African National Council (UANC) had

to call off four out of five meetings because of intimidation

In Manicaland it was estimated

that half of the province had

been subjected to extensive

intimidation, mainly by Zanu

(PF) and Zanla. However, the

situation in Umvati was satis-

factory, as in most other urban

areas around the country.

PERSONAL CHOICE



Faith Brown : The Faith Brown Chat Show (ITV, 8.15)

John Fowles's story *The Enigma*, which Malcolm Bradbury has turned, very effectively indeed, into a play (BBC 2, 8.30), differs fundamentally from those countless other mystery yarns in which somebody vanishes, everybody else chips in with conflicting reminiscences about him, and we end up with a jigsaw puzzle. There is a remarkable degree of unanimity about Mr Fowles's vanished MP/harpooner/company director. All agree he is eminently respectable, professionally and domestically, in the House, apart from speaking out once on the Lomax affair (the period is 1973); his back-bench impact has been negligible. A colourless, humourless, unambitious man. Then why did he disappear? And where to? Do not expect too many conventional clues from Mr Bradbury tonight. It is not that kind of mystery story.

You will either think Dallas, with its tormented Texans (BBC 1, 8.40), is the finest thing since sliced bread or the worst thing since Tiny Tim (the American singer, not Master Cratchit). Violently opposed emotions will, therefore, be unleashed by my announcement that when Dallas is finally laid to rest in about eight week's time, another related series about rich Texans, *Knots Landing*, will spring from its dead loins, presumably to go on for ever—a frightening prospect that Dallas itself seemed to have held out at one time.

As the last feathered missile plops into the double-top tonight, and the last black ball rolls silently into its predestined pocket, two sporting championships will end on TV—the Embassy World Professional Darts Championship (BBC 2, 10.40) and the Benson and Hedges Masters snooker tournament (BBC 2, 8.50 and 11.25)—and the stage will have been cleared for next week's run of sports transmissions, the Olympic Winter Games. The opening ceremony can be seen on BBC 1, at 7.25 on Wednesday night.

A first radio performance (albeit a recording) of a musical work tonight on Radio 3 (7.30). It is a Richard Rodney Bennett piece for cello and orchestra, *Sonnets to Orpheus*. The orchestra is the Hallé, conducted by James Loughran, and the cellist is Heinrich Schiff. The concert, which also includes Elgar's second symphony and the Berlioz overture *Benvolente Cellini*, is the one given last September at the Edinburgh Festival... I see that Bernard Miles and the Barrow Poets have another of their music, prose and poetry tours of London starting tonight (Radio 4, 11.15). Quintessential radio, this six-part series.

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

TELEVISION

BBC 1

7.40 am Open University. Close down at 8.30.
9.05 Gymnast: The Men's Floor Event (r).
9.30 Multi-Coloured Swap Shop. Includes a phone-in to bonanza David Bellamy, and cartoons, music and general fun.
12.15 pm Weather.

12.30 Programme: The Line-up (s).
12.30 Football Focus (with Brian Wilson); 12.50 European Four-Man Bobsleigh Championships (from St Moritz); 1.05, 1.40 and 2.10 International Tennis (from Cagliari); 1.20, 1.50 and 2.10 Racing from Newbury; 2.50 and 4.25 International Snooker (the Benson and Hedges Masters); 3.20, Rugby League: Wigan v Hull Kingston

5.25 Mr Smith's Indoor Garden: Gertie, Sooty and the Pig. Leafy, plants and rubber plants (r).
5.50 Open Film: *All in a Night's Work* (1961). Comedy with Dean Martin as the hero of a publishing firm. Martin's wife, the girl (Shirley MacLaine), he thinks was his late uncle's mistress. Light-weight, but Miss MacLaine is—as always—*The Joy at Night*.
7.15 *All Creatures Great and Small*: *Tristan and the Dove* (1976). The Dick Emery Show. Mr Emery as a high class tramp, frustrated spinster, doctor and policeman, with Pat Coombs.
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Rovers; 4.20 International Darts (from Stoke-on-Trent); 4.40 Final of the Pink Panther Show. Cartoons.
5.35 News: with Kenneth Kendall.
5.45 Sport.

5.50 Wonder Woman: Lynda Carter is the female Superman. Sabotage and living dead man's brain.

6.15 *Jim'll Fix It*: Malcolm Parton, ten-year-old, as much as Monte Lisa as she thinks she is?

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Collecting

Rhodesian art: a wide open field

With sanctions against Rhodesia lifted, Rhodesian art can once again be exported legally to the West. No doubt, in the course of the next year, artistically minded entrepreneurs will be exhibiting and selling Rhodesian art in Britain. What should we make of it?

By far the most significant and individual Rhodesian art works are the stone carvings originally made in greenish soapstone, but now increasingly in serpentine and quartz. The carving began in villages and townships only about 10 years before UDI, but even during that short period they had begun to stir excitement abroad. There had been two exhibitions at the Commonwealth Institute in London; pieces had also sold in America where a big exhibition was planned—a carving by Joram Mariga had been bought for the Museum of Modern Art.

UDI put a total blockage, at least on the overt trade in Rhodesian sculpture, though a few pieces continued to trickle out, notably among the effects of departing white settlers. For the past 10 years the sculptors have been able to work only for the small internal market. It will be interesting to see what happens next.

For the collector, the special fascination of the field lies in exerting his or her own taste and judgment. Which types of work and which artists deserve a slot in art history has yet to be decided. Collections now formed with care and taste will help to decide it.

The story begins with the opening of the National Gallery in Salisbury in 1957. The first director was Frank McEwen, an English artist and administrator, who was to become the chief international promoter of the sculpture school. From the start he saw his role as stimulating artistic activity within Rhodesia, not merely exhibiting the work of other cultures to a Rhodesian audience.

Within a couple of years he had dreamed up the scheme for a workshop attached to the gallery where paint, canvas or carving tools would be made available to anyone who cared to try them. Among his first clients were the African gallery attendants, notably Thomas Mukarobgwa who was soon hailed as a major painter. They were given little instruc-

tion and no encouragement to embrace any particular artistic style.

McEwen watched with fascination to see what emerged, as it were, from a vacuum. Writing in the late Sixties, he said: "Sculptural features common to West Africa—the enlarged head, seat of the spirit; the sturdy sculptural legs; the chevron, the snake and the spiral symbols all came into carving, while painting appeared distinctly expressionistic."

Precisely how the soapstone carving began is unclear, though the Iyanya school in the Eastern Highlands definitely began with Joram Mariga, and this may have been the start of it nationally. Pat Pearce, an artist of British origin and her pioneer pilot husband, lived and farmed at Iyanya. Mariga turned up on their doorstep with a carving, to get Mrs Pearce's opinion and advice. She was so excited by its quality that she kept Mariga at the farm overnight and drove him into Salisbury next morning to meet Frank McEwen and show him the carving.

From such small beginnings great things may grow. His example inspired many of his village friends to start carving and the Iyanya school was born. The National Gallery later established its own post-graduate colony of sculptors. Some looked for inspiration in British periodicals, such as *Country Life* and the *Illustrated London News* and produced extraordinary imitations of, for instance, Georgian silver in soapstone from the illustrations. This was very much frowned upon by McEwen and Mrs Pearce, who urged the sculptors to draw on their own culture, traditions and religion for images. The Iyanya artists, especially, turned to animal carvings, elephants, baboons, snakes and birds; the religious symbolism of the creatures is always close to the surface. They are very much spirit carvings, rather than photographic representations, and the spirit can be quite disturbing to live with. I have an inspired carving of an elephant by an Iyanya artist called Clever Machisa and I know.

Next came Tom Blomefield, a tobacco farmer from Sipolilo. He came to show them a carving by one of his farm labourers. They were given little instruc-

tion and caught the carving bug. He was taught to sculpt by his own employees and himself achieved some busts of Ian Smith. His farm was rapidly transformed into a flourishing carving community. Everyone was carving and their sculptures became part of the landscape.

When UDI came in 1970 Frank McEwen was busy organizing the exhibition to put all previous exhibitions in the shade at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Three schools of sculpture would be represented, the Salisbury workshop artists, those from Tom Blomefield's farm, and the Iyanya group. Large quantities of sculpture had already reached New York when the UDI announcement buzzed across the wires in March, 1970. And that was the end of the exhibition.

Quite a few of the sculptures were sold in New York and McEwen later organized exhibitions at the Musée Rodin in Paris and at the ICA in London. On each occasion more pieces were sold. One group was bought by the Anthropos Gallery in Monmouth Street, Covent Garden.

They are as far as I can discover, the only gallery in London offering Rhodesian sculpture for sale at the moment. They have roughly two dozen pieces on offer; their prices in the main range from £200 to £2,000, though there is the odd small piece at under £100 (very much above Rhodesian prices).

R. W. McEwen himself severed his connection with Salisbury soon after UDI. Pat Pearce was arrested for helping Zanu and left the country. But curiously enough, the soapstone carvers seem to have multiplied through the war years. This was perhaps one of the few sources of cash income available.

Whereas in 1970, sculptures were marketed by the National Gallery itself and there were a couple of craft shops in Salisbury, there are now some two dozen craft shops. In addition to selling weaving, wooden furniture and various village crafts, these shops all sell soapstone carvings. This is frowned on by the serious sculpture collectors of Rhodesia. It is suggested that those with no particular gift for carving are simply working soapstone as a commercial deal. The serious carvers, I



Pregnant woman by Thomas Ma, at the Anthropos Gallery.

Chess

Challenger for Karpov

This is the year when the Candidates matches to decide who will challenge Anatoly Karpov for the world title in 1981 are to be held. Six players qualified for this series of matches from the two Internationals last year. Hübner, Petrosian and Portisch from the Rio de Janeiro event and Tal, Polugayevsky and Adorjan from the Riga tournament. Adorjan in fact came equal third with his compatriot Hungarian Ribi and just squeezed into the Candidates by drawing a match with Ribi 3-3 and then qualifying by reason of a superior win-count in the Riga tournament.

These six joined the finalists from the previous Candidates series (in 1977), Kortchnoi and Spassky to form the eight players for the quarter-finals of the Candidates. The pairings for these matches were made by a drawing of lots last November at the FIDE secretariat in Amsterdam and the matches, which are due to commence in a month's time, were Kortchnoi v Petrosian, Spassky v Portisch, Tal v Polugayevsky and Hübner v Adorjan.

The winner of the match is the player who is in the lead at the end of 10 games and there is provision for further games after which, if the score is still level, the winner is the player who has won the most games with the Black pieces.

All this is to be done at the rate of four games a week and the matches should end by April 1. In practice they hardly ever do; but a fair time is allotted as an interval between the quarter-finals and the semi-finals since the latter are due to be finished by August 1 and presumably start some time in June. A drawing of lots was also made for the semi-finals and the winner of the Kortchnoi-Petrosian match plays the winner of the Tal-Polugayevsky match, leaving the winner of the Spassky-Portisch match to meet the winner of the Hübner-Adorjan match.

The damnable iteration of two of these matches, both Kortchnoi-Petrosian and Spassky-Portisch occurred in the previous cycle of Candidates' matches in 1977, has led a number of experts to express disappointment at the sameness of the proceedings. And it is surprising that none of the really young great players have broken through to the last eight.

There is no Timman, no Miles; above all there is no Kasparov. In this last case there never was a possibility of Kasparov playing since he was too young to participate in the Soviet Zonal tournament and thus could not qualify for one of the Internationals. Timman started slowly in the Internazional at Kirov but finished up with a strong burst and missed qualifying by a hair's breadth; whereas Tony Miles, though he did and played very creditably at Riga, never really looked like qualifying.

Despite all this, each match has its own peculiar interest. The contest between the two youngest, Hübner (31), and Adorjan (29), is due to start at Bad Lauterberg in West Germany on March 14. One imagines that Hübner, who played so well at Rio, should have a comfortable victory; but even

here there are doubts about Hübner's match-playing technique or temperament.

One would also have surmised that Kortchnoi should beat Petrosian in his match which starts on March 3 at Velden am Wörthersee in Austria, not far from Klagenfurt and the Yugoslav border. But Petrosian is one player in the Candidates whom Kortchnoi did not want to meet. Though he beat him in the 1977 match in Italy, it was not without considerable difficulty and he has also lost a match in a preceding Candidates' series to Petrosian.

The match between Tal and Polugayevsky starts on March 9 at Alma-Ata in the USSR and if Tal shows his Kirov form where he crushingly defeated Polugayevsky and was first by a large margin then the Latvian ex-world champion should win with ease.

No country has as yet offered to stage the Spassky-Portisch match, the result of which is very open. Spassky won against him in the match which I controlled at Geneva in 1977. But since then Portisch has had better tournament results than Spassky so the result of this match is anybody's guess, and I am not so foolish or so foolhardy as to class myself as competent as anybody in this respect.

The following game, which was played at Tilburg in the Netherlands last November, is an excellent example of Hübner's unique style of play.

White: Hübner. Black: Smyslov. Q. G. D. Shy Defence. 1 P-Q4, 2 N-QB3, 3 P-QB3, 4 P-QN5, 5 P-QN4, 6 P-QB3.

Threatening 8 BxP ch. KxP; 9 N-K5, 10 E-N3, 11 Q-Q5, 12 S-Q3, 13 Q-N5, 14 P-Q4, 15 P-B3, 16 P-KN4, 17 E-N3, 18 P-B5, with advantage to White. (Gigogne-Cream, Hastings 1961).

Otherwise White plays N-K5 with much the better game.

10 P-B4; 11 Q-Q4, 12 P-B2, 13 Q-N5, 14 P-B4, 15 P-B3, 16 P-KN4, 17 E-N3, 18 P-B5, with advantage to White. (Gigogne-Cream, Hastings 1961).

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Travel I

Two sides to Barbados

Having "flown the flag" from Heathrow for several hours, I was certainly anxious to get on to firm ground and begin my visit to the island of Barbados. The flight had been as comfortable as one could expect, but too long on any aircraft is a physically and mentally draining experience. And the anticipation of arrival had sharpened my desire to be at journey's end.

Four years had passed since I was last on the island. Four years since I had made my way up Highway One from Bridgetown, north along the languid Caribbean shore. Four years since I had walked along the Atlantic beach near Bathsheba, since I had driven through the fields of tall green sugar cane. During those years I had savoured my memories and they had grown richer with the passing of time. I was most anxious to renew old acquaintance.

My very first minutes on the island were not pleasant ones. When a couple of Boeing 747s arrive in quick succession at Grantley Adams Airport, a chaos of momentary proportions ensues or ensues on the occasion of which I write. My temper was not greatly improved by being told afterwards that all would be smoother and easier "when the extension comes into operation". (It was, in fact, scheduled to handle its first passengers last October, so I hope all is now smoother and easier.)

A hazardous drive through the warm evening—the Bajan taxi driver's attitude towards his and other vehicles, and belief in his supreme ability had certainly not altered—brought us to the Tamarind Cove hotel, one of many which line the west coast. An excellent place it proved to be, with a mixture of British and north American visitors, and not too large, so a pleasant, clublike atmosphere was engendered.

One of the things that always tends to slit the British mind when contemplating the Caribbean, particularly those islands which used to be ours, is that Americans are much in evidence because for them the islands are easy of access. Canadians, too, get down there on modestly priced "package" deals, and one of the arts of good hotel keeping is to get the balance of nationalities right. The Tamarind Cove had achieved that, or at least it



Royal palms on the east coast of Barbados.

bad during the time we were there.

It does not take long to settle into a routine under such circumstances, the first few days being spent "unwinding" and taking pleasure simply from the fine weather. How satisfying to walk along the wide coral sands which curve

around the bay and to plunge into the Caribbean.

So the days passed. We became used to the pace of the Caribbean. Or, to put it another way, we stopped fretting about slow service at breakfast. Then we entered upon phase two of the holiday. The "don't let's just lie around here. Let's do something" phase.

What you have to do on Barbados when this point is reached is hire a "Moke" and make the most of mobility. The "Moke" is a vehicle tailor-made for the tropics. Open topped and open sided, it carries you around the eleven parishes, the 166 square miles of Barbados, from one shore to another. South from Tamarind Cove, past Buccaneer Bay and Coconut Creek and Paradise Beach, through the tangled traffic of Bridgetown and east past the airport to Crane Beach and the hotel there. Or north along Highway One, through Holetown and Speightstown, either to the island's northernmost point and Animal Flower Cave, or across the parish of St James and St Andrew to the Atlantic Coast.

A pounding, bracing antidote to the Caribbean, this is. Indeed, one of the best things about Barbados is the contrast between the two coastlines, for when the Caribbean—or the rum punch—brings on lassitude, the Atlantic spray and the Atlantic breeze will clear the senses. There are, as I remember, just three hotels on that coast, all near the fishing port of Bathsheba—though "port" is not an accurate word in this context, conjuring up images of jetties and loading sheds. Bathsheba is a delightful place, for its simplicity makes it delightful. Boats are brought close to the shore and the catch unloaded on to the rocky strand. And there are always boats hauled up on the beach, being painted or repaired.

Of those hotels, I have visited, and would certainly recommend, the Sandy Lane (in my opinion, the island's best) the Buccaneer Bay, Paradise Beach, and the relatively new Treasure Beach.

Because the Tamarind Cove is a member of the St James Beach hotel group, it offers its guests exchange dining facilities at the Discovery Bay Inn and the Colony Club, further north. We took advantage of this, as I would recommend any visitor to do, for other hotels have similar arrangements. As on many other islands, the Barbados night life is largely confined to the hotels, and falls into a pattern of steel band entertainment, limbo dancing (which, I am told, originated as an exercise to straighten backs bent in the

cane fields all day) and modest cabaret.

On this visit, I also spent a little time at the Crane Beach hotel, on the south east corner of the island. A lot of renovation work was in progress and some months ago now manager arrived there, so I have every reason to believe this hotel will prosper remarkably. It deserves to do so, for its location is splendid—high above the beach on which the Atlantic rolls, yet sheltered from the full force of that sea.

Various tour operating companies offer inclusive holidays to Barbados, among them British Airways' Speedbird, many of whose customers were at the Tamarind Cove during my own visit.

It is also possible, of course, to buy an advance purchase excursion air fare, and add on to it accommodation at the hotel of your choice. British Airways and Caribbean Airways both serve the island

from the United Kingdom. Any competent travel agent would be able to help you. If you needed help, to do this, and it is a form of "do-it-yourself" package holiday shtour which, I hope to write in a future article. It is certainly a general development—that linking of a low price air fare to accommodation arranged especially for the individual—that is becoming widespread.

The Barbados Tourist Board, at 6 Upper Belgrave Street, London, SW1X 8AZ, will provide information about the island, and tour companies which offer hotel and villa holidays there.

The central booking office of Prestige Hotels, mentioned by John Carter in his travel article, of January 26, is now: Strand House, Great West Road, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 9EX (Tel: 01-568 6841).

John Carter

Travel II

Hemingway drank here

It all started on the plane with heady talk about the Spanish Civil War, and Ernest Hemingway and Dorothy Parker and other literary adventure-seekers who spent their last years in torn Madrid. Were those bars still there, we wondered, and could we find them, or at least one, to drink a *salud* to their memories and good times?

We were on our way to a long weekend break in Madrid, a city not known to every man and his neighbour as, say, Paris or Rome, and the prospect was exhilarating. Cities always ideal winter places, but when we arrived there was enough sun to make walking in Madrid an invigorating pleasure—particularly as the armies of tourists had not yet descended and filled the restaurants and cafés.

For £99, Pegasus Holidays (flight by Monarch Airlines) offered a long weekend at the ritzy four star Los Galgos Hotel (English breakfast included) at the posh end of the city. And you can't do better than that. Pegasus also arranges coach tours of the city and beyond as extras. We went on three, conducted in our case by a flashing-eyed Andalucian called Conchita, who was describing the delights of our city as a practising lawyer and a champion of women's rights.

But back to Hemingway. On the first day, with help from a resident British correspondent, some close map work and a fast cab, we tracked down the Cerveceria Alemana in the Plaza Santa Ana, a delightfully dingy café with wooden paneling, gas lamps and marble-topped tables, most of them awash with split beer, and staffed by sad-faced waiters who seemed sad to serve drinks all night. There was talk, laughter, the clink of glasses, much handshaking and very large measures. The place was champion in olive oil, served hot enough to burn your fingers.

Sunday is open air day in Madrid. In the Plaza Mayor the bars around the cobblesquare are full. Inside most of them smoked ham, looking like old lumps of leather, hangs from hooks, and on ledges are rows

of open-topped misshapen bottles full of wine, ready to be poured. It is time for *Tapas*, bar snacks all Madrileños love—shrimps, marinated mushrooms, croquettes of cod and scoops of salty rice, served on white saucers. We dipped into each other's, but my favourite was champion in olive oil, served hot enough to burn your fingers.

At 11.30 still early, we off to the *Rastro*, Madrid's sprawling flea market, to join the tens of thousands who were buying and anything for sale from shrilly birds in tiny gilt cages to furniture and art. Mostly art. Everyone pushes and shoves and harras. It is like a hundred Petticoat Lanes.

Suddenly it becomes claustrophobic, but how to get away from this jostling multitude? We found a narrow side street that seemed to have only a thousand people in it and walked behind a man pushing his way through, using a huge antiquated brass bedhead as a battering ram. What must it be like when the tourists are here as well and the temperature reaches 100 degrees? Hell could be a better place.

A chilled fino restores the senses, and we seek out the quiet of the Royal Palace, all shimmering white against the blue sky.

Then a final look at the city: beige buildings, avenues seven car-lanes wide (and not a parking meter in sight); massive blocks of flats, their drabness softened by rows of washing hanging precariously from window ledges; the jarringly noisy discos, and the paintings dusty.

Out on the street the wind was cold and through our taxi window (we didn't pay more than £1 for short journeys) the bare poplar trees stood

as (Clint Eastwood was everywhere) gypsies sitting oddly on the shafts of their horse-drawn carts, heads jolting up and down with the bounces of the horses;

smart hotels and peeling plaster on centuries old walls.

The delightful Conchita showed us the clock in the Puerto del Sol by which all Madrid sets its watch. Here, on New Year's Eve, revellers were brave enough to stomach the biting cold, take champagne and glasses and sing one after every stroke of the clock to midnight. A ritual for the young, I thought. But Papa Hemingway would have joined in.

Derek Darby

Further information from Pegasus Winter City Holidays, 33/35 Buckingham Palace Road, SW1. 828 2151.

HOLIDAYS WITH A PURPOSE
LEAP YEAR-1980-
ÜBERAMMERGAU YEAR
with

Inter-Church Travel

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Fred Emery

Can Mr Prior avert a third union war?

The spasm of impotent rage that has convulsed Conservatives in and out of politics this week over the Government's inability instantly and drastically to change trade union law is not yet spent. It may be that the reforms in the Government's Employment Bill will not be in force until next autumn's round of strikes. But the effect of the past few days' clamour for action means almost certainly that the law will contain tougher measures than originally intended.

This places a critical strain on the Cabinet, particularly Mr Prior, the embattled Secretary of State for Employment. His whole strategy has been to avert a Third War with the union leadership which the Government would be bound to lose as the Wilson and Heath governments lost theirs. With a passion that belies the smear of pussy footing he has been, is still, playing for the highest stakes of national survival as he sees it. His friends regret only that he did not start to man his defences earlier.

The ultimate deterrent Mr Prior seeks is sustained public support for the reforms he is proposing, not a popular reaction that might bring down his government at the first crisis of strength. Until Christmas, not without fierce disputations with Cabinet colleagues, he had been carrying the argument

It is obvious what has gone wrong—the steel strike, coupled with Lord Denning and his colleagues of the Appeal Court. The effect of their ruling, and the House of Lords reversal, was to precipitate emotions over the law as it stands. It cannot be right, rang out the cry from ministers: never let it happen again, clamoured backbenchers.

Mr Prior had tried heading off the attack. The previous week he had

announced the Government would definitely amend its Bill to restrict immunities, but that made him only vulnerable to the inevitable charge of too little too late.

Overly Mr Prior has ended his critical week much as he began it. Last Sunday he was telling radio listeners the Cabinet would not be rushed; the same insistence emerged at the reputedly impressive performance he gave facing down his critics at Thursday's overflow private meeting of the 1922 Committee of all Conservative backbenchers. But that is not the whole story.

Others had envisaged a different scenario. The militant leader writers of *The Daily Telegraph* also ended their week much as they began. On Monday they told us "it may be no exaggeration to say that the coming week will seal the fate of the Thatcher administration".

By Friday they suggested that a "handful of ministerial resignations" might be preferable to the catastrophe of having Mrs Thatcher besiege much longer and "dissipate the country's resolve for firm action".

The thoroughly disgruntled *Daily Express* editorially thundered at Mrs Thatcher: "If you don't act now the writing will be on the tombstone of the Tory Government".

The quotes are reproduced to illustrate for those who missed the point why Mr Prior's friends were beginning to suspect that a general strike was being waged, and that foolish Cabinet ministers had a hand in it.

Hurriedly they reacted, trumpeting the hitherto unsung "tough" character of the measures already in the Bill. Mr Prior swooped at very short notice into the standing Commons committee considering his Bill; he wisely grabbed whatever broadcasting time he could, and was only too

eager to take on the 1922 Committee.

His difficulty was that when MPs

returned from their constituencies

after last weekend, they were full of

the exasperation of their supporters,

ordinary and business folk alike.

Discontent was instantly channelled into

an impressive sounding Commons

"early day" motion, by Mr Tony

Marlow, the Sandhurst-educated MP

for Northampton North, which nearly

100 Conservatives signed. Rather like

a Tribune motion put down against

Mr Callaghan, it boldly summoned

the Government to live up to its

election manifesto and—as if the

Prior Bill did not exist—"to introduce

immediate legislation to restore

industrial equity".

Some signatories had so skinned

their homework that when examined

on what exactly they wanted had to

be told—according secondary picketing

and the closed shop—that it was

already in Mr Prior's Bill. Others

were told that if they wanted to prevent

private (rather than BSC) steel

workers picketing their own place of

work they would have to outlaw the

right to strike altogether. A few

sheepishly admitted to having signed

without reading—by no means an exceptional practice at Westminster.

But Mr Prior's task with Cabinet

colleagues proved more difficult. He

was unhappy to be stalled by them

on Wednesday when he produced

draft proposals for limiting union

immunities in secondary industrial

action. He wanted us all to be

reading the paper by now. They wanted

him to go back and find even

tougher options; next week should

see the product.

There is, incidentally, nothing new

in Mr Prior embracing the proposal

to have unions bear their share of

supporting members on strike. He

promised as much to the Conservative

conference last October; also we may

expect other legislation this year to

curb social security benefits for

strikers and their families.

The Cabinet's present intention,

according to my information, is that

the pending amendment will be con-

cerned to the vexed question of reduc-

ing the very wide immunities unions

presently enjoy from civil pursuit for

damages from employers who become

victims of secondary action. The issue

is not whether to ban secondary action.

It is how narrow to define that

immunity, and how to punish even-

tual defences without making martyrs.

One ministerial view was that the

more one goes into the matter the

more one realises how difficult it is.

But some members of the Cabinet

want to seize the hour, almost as if

there were no tomorrow. They believe

that the opportunity for tough action

will not repeat itself, and that its

now or never. So there may be a

majority for toughening this intri-

cacy more than Mr Prior intended.

The trouble with raising expecta-

tions is whether, after all the fuss,

the spectators will be impressed. Will

the "marketeers" in the City be setting

as much store by how the Govern-

ment handles the steel settlement

and union reform as by the Budget?

Will the public, although depicted in

opinion polls to favour actions against

union power, stay constant if they feel

their own union interests threatened?

A key Prior argument has been to

insist on doing nothing to alienate

union support from the Conservatives

gained at the last election if the

Cabinet now abstained. TUC score

over union bashing might not that-

er support, merely, much as did

Mr Callaghan's time who favoured wage

restraint except for themselves? And

would Labour at last have an

issue around which to unite?

The idea of building a "base

camp" with this Bill, and if it holds

to climb higher to further measures

is one credited to Mr Patrick May-

hew, QC. He is junior minister and

very much the lawyer in Mr Prior's

department, and close supporter of

Mrs Thatcher. Will she accept that

it means a hard slog for the bearers

rather than an exhilarating dash for

the top end?

on which ministers presently do not

agree is how narrow to define that

immunity, and how to punish even-

tual defences without making martyrs.

One ministerial view was that the

more one goes into the matter the

more one realises how difficult it is.

But some members of the Cabinet

want to seize the hour, almost as if

there were no tomorrow. They believe

that the opportunity for tough action

will not repeat itself, and that its

now or never. So there may be a

majority for toughening this intri-

cacy more than Mr Prior intended.

The trouble with raising expecta-

tions is whether, after all the fuss,

the spectators will be impressed. Will

the "marketeers" in the City be setting

as much store by how the Govern-

ment handles the steel settlement

and union reform as by the Budget?

Will the public, although depicted in

opinion polls to favour actions against

union power, stay constant if they feel

their own union interests threatened?

A key Prior argument has been to

insist on doing nothing to alienate

union support from the Conservatives

gained at the last election if the

Cabinet now abstained. TUC score

over union bashing might not that-

er support, merely, much as did

Mr Callaghan's time who favoured wage

restraint except for themselves? And

would Labour at last have an

issue around which to unite?

The idea of building a "base

camp" with this Bill, and if it holds

to climb higher to further measures

is one credited to Mr Patrick May-

hew, QC. He is junior minister and

very much the lawyer in Mr Prior's

department, and close supporter of

Mrs Thatcher. Will she accept that

it means a hard slog for the bearers

rather than an exhilarating dash for

the top end?

The trouble with raising expecta-

tions is whether, after all the fuss,

the spectators will be impressed. Will



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 8: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh, accompanied by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and The Prince of Wales, attended the Presentation of Admiral of the Fleet The Earl Mountbatten of Burma's Garter Banner at Evesham at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Honorary Air Commodore, concluded his visit to Royal Air Force Klossis this morning and afterwards returned to London in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight. Wing Commander Antony Nicholson was in attendance. The Prince of Wales, President, The Mary Rose Trust, gave an interview to Radio Victory at Buckingham Palace today.

Birthdays today

Mr Kyland Davies, Jr., the Marquis of Exeter, 75; Mr Douglas Hurd, 77; Lord Pearson, 73; Professor S. E. Rasmussen, 72; Mr Dean Rusk, 71; Lieutenant-General Sir William Scott, 58; Professor H. B. Sutcliffe, 77; Miss Janet Suzman, 41.

Mr and Mrs Larry Adler, Dame Judith Anderson, 83; Sir Charles Collins, 93; Dr Alexander Comfort, 60; Dr Walter Hamilton, 72; Field Marshal Lord Harding of Petherton, 84; Sir Alan Hardwick, 81; Baroness Heslop-Harrison, 60; Sir George Kitson, 81; Mr Harold Macmillan, OM, 86; Lord Ormsby, 68.

Forthcoming

Marriage
Mr J. D. W. Barnard and Miss C. A. Barlow. The engagement is announced between David, son of Dr G. E. Barnard, of New Lambton, New South Wales, and Mrs G. M. Barnard, of Milford-on-Sea, Hampshire, and Christopher Barnard of Lieutenant-Commander D. A. Barlow, Royal Navy, of Emsworth, Hampshire, and Mrs H. Stock, of Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey.

Marriage

Mr N. Kerman and Miss J. A. Standish. The marriage took place in Antigua on January 31 between Mr Nicholas Kerman, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Kerman, and Miss Judith Standish, twin daughter of Major Perry Standish and Mrs Christopher Watson.

Latest appointments

Cathedral architect takes new post
Mr Alan Mackenzie Rome, cathedral architect to the Dean and Chapter of Peterborough and Salisbury Cathedrals, and consulting architect to the Prince and Chapter of Leicester Cathedral, has been made a member of the Redundant Churches Fund. He succeeds Miss Corinne Wilson. Other appointments include: Mr G. T. N. Ross, acting principal of Edinburgh College of Art; the death of Principal J. T. Munro in December, 1977, to be principal.

The Church's need today for a more mature laity

This is the last in a series of three articles which Mollie Batten has written on the laity. The first article was published on July 8, 1978 and the second on November 17, 1979.

English men and women do not want to be educated. That is a process for children; which is why so many Christians are immature in religious matters. Yet much more preparation is needed if they are to fulfil their developing roles in the church, and if they are to attempt their tasks in the world—thanksgiving, witnessing and right judgment (a theme I developed in a previous article, published last year).

Some of the more faithful and regular churchgoers are satisfied with things as they are. They attend church on Sundays and sometimes in the week or in Lent, they also sing with enthusiasm traditional hymns and psalms. But not all who go to church are content, and many who go only occasionally are obviously dissatisfied. They may be called "the fringe" or "the latent laity". They are conscious that as they grow older they are maturing in many ways. Their experience as neighbours, parents, professionals men and women with

civic responsibility and social involvement, tends to make them develop accordingly.

In the sphere of religion there are few congregations in which lay people are expected and helped as adults to grow into a faith and practice of a more mature nature. They have little opportunity to do other than to carry on trying to be faithful to what they learnt at school or in confirmation classes. And what was that?

For the older people, at school before the First World War, the Christian Catechism would have been assumed to be the relevant summary of belief and morals. In order to find out more about that faith with its roots in the Bible and in the history of the Christian church they would probably have been taught to recite in order the names of the Kings of Israel and Judah and the books of the Old and New Testaments. To these would be added the journeys of St Paul and the lives of notable saints. Amazing stories are told today of such learning. But how else are children to learn, at an age when learning by heart is easy, to find their way round such knowledge on which our faith and practice rests? The

tragedy is that for too many of them religious teaching were quite unprepared to undertake.

Today, in schools religious education has been broadened. We know more today about the great world religions and other cultures; all have aspects of truth. Such studies certainly make for more sensitivity and sympathy to others. But it may be that this development will lead to the abandonment of "theology" and "doctrine" which have become dirty words. But to many this did not matter because they thought they could get on with activity without any basis in thought or faith.

At about the same time Ronald Goldman's research into the religious ideas of primary school children (*Religious Thinking from Childhood to Adolescence*, 1964) showed that the ability to understand biblical ideas and Christian beliefs developed late. Religious learning, he suggested, should begin with experience, explanation coming later. Harold Loukes' *Teenage Religion* of 1961 insisted that in secondary schools discussion of Christianity must be taught at home as well as taught in school. So parents of all people concerned that most of them

were quite unprepared to for the sake of their children. How can this be achieved?

Clergy and laity must think this out together and here, particularly, the "dissatisfied" "fringe laity" can help. There will be many questions and many answers to this time of rapid social change and intellectual ferment. Part of the process of maturing is not to be frightened by this but to press on with the questions. Clergy who have a gift for this kind of education are needed and the work might perhaps be focused on cathedrals or on deaneries. (It cannot be expected to happen in most parishes or congregations where hard-pressed clergy and other ministers are fully occupied in pastoral care.) Laity with special knowledge and skills must be recruited to help. By such education, if it were to be made lively by men and women who have experience of this kind of activity, a more mature laity would grow and the Christian church would be stronger in its life and its work in the world.

Mollie Batten
Formerly Principal, William Temple College

OBITUARY

LIL DAGOVER

Long career on German stage and in films

Lil Dagover, the German stage and film star, died in Munich on January 30. She was 82.

Born in Java on September 30, 1897, as Maria-Maria Lillies, to a German father, who was a Dutch government employee, she was educated in Germany and married the actor-playwright Fritz Dagover when she was 20, only to divorce him two years later.

She later married the film producer George Witt, by whom she had a daughter.

Endowed with exceptional physical beauty, Frau Dagover (who changed the spelling of her name) made her acting debut on the silent screen in Fritz Lang's *Hare-Kiri* in 1919, the year in which she also starred in Robert Wiene's *The Cabinet of Dr Caligari*, a classic of German expressionism and the second of over 100 films she made over a period of 60 years, both at home and abroad.

Besides playing in Lang's *Destry* (1921) and *Dr Mabuse* (1922) and Fritz Murnau's *Tartuffe* (1925), she worked in Sweden in Gustav Molander's *Hans Engelska Fri* (1927) and in France, in Julien Duvivier's *Le Tourbillon de Paris* (1928), among others, before going to Hollywood, to appear in several films beginning with *The Woman of Monte Carlo*, (1931), she lived until her death.

MR LESLIE WELCH

Mr Leslie Welch, who died suddenly yesterday, aged 70, was popularly known as "British Mr Memory Man", but ironically that name was born with a poor memory but "a thank to the invention of paper" four-fifths of it became dormant.

On radio and television, and on the stage and in films, he astonished audiences by being able to recall limitless details of sporting events reaching back to the last century: winning horses in the classics, for example, and the odds at which they and the other runners which he named—parted; the names of the members of the teams in a Cup Final, the goals scored and who scored them; minute facts likewise of cricket matches recorded in his card index mind.

Nor was he interested only in sport—history, geography and the story of Western states of the United States attracted him. By and large, he had to have an inherent interest in a subject to record its minute past. His own belief was that he was born with a poor memory but "a thank to the invention of paper" four-fifths of it became dormant.

He made his first mark in radio, and his performances from about 1947 gathered force. But in the late 1950s he began to appear less, largely, he himself said, because of domestic preoccupations.

He took a job as accountant in the Civil Service, but retired at 65 and gave occasional performances on radio and at private gatherings. In 1973 he was on the BBC 2 programme *Horizon*, which illustrated different types of memory. The pertinent question or title then was: "Do You Remember: the Memory Man?"

M. ROBERT BLANC

Harold Evans writes:

Thousands of holiday skiers are in debt to France's Robert Blanc who died in an avalanche this week at Les Arcs in the High Tarentaise.

Robert Blanc was a superb skier and something rarer: a fearless champion who could appreciate the terror of the holiday skier. He revolutionised the teaching of skiing by introducing the teaching of "sidi evoluti", in which the beginner starts on parallel turns on a one metre site and in a week or a fortnight graduates to something about his own height.

Some large claims were made for the direct-parallel, which has not been as widely adopted as he hoped, but nobody can dispute the infectious enjoyment Robert Blanc brought to ski teaching and his love of the mountain on which he died.

Les Arcs, unlike the vast majority of purpose-built ski resorts, owes it to him that the buildings are in sympathy with the contours. He was brought up there and indeed ranted cows in the meadows where investors enabled him to build one of the most successful resorts in Europe.

He was passionate in his enjoyment that anybody could ski. He had little English but communicated easily, babbling in his enthusiasm for "le montagne". He was 46 when he died and leaves a widow and four children.

AIR MARSHAL SIR R. WILLIAMS

Air Marshal Sir Richard Williams, KBE, CB, DSO, a founding father of the Royal Australian Air Force; later its Chief of Staff; and from 1946 to 1956 Director-General of Civil Aviation in Australia, died on February 7. He was 89.

Born on August 3, 1890, he graduated in November 1914 from the Central Flying School, Point Cook, as a service pilot. After completing the advanced course he was promoted captain and went overseas as a flight commander of No. 1 Squadron Australian Flying Corps which distinguished itself in Egypt, Sial and Palestine.

Later he was to command his squadron and the 40th (Army) Wing RAF. From the end of 1918 to the beginning of 1919 he commanded the Palestine Brigade of the RAF. For his services he was made OBE and a DSO.

As staff officer, AFC at the AIF headquarters in London and RAAF representative on the Joint Staff Mission in Washington, he was made CB in 1935 and promoted to KBE in 1954.

SIR PATRICK HANCOCK

A friend writes:

Sir Hancock, the subject of your obituary of February 2, was a most distinguished person, someone quite out of the ordinary.

He has been thought of as one of the leading eccentrics in a service believed to contain many. It is true that he was hilariously funny both in behaviour and anecdote. But his proper claim to distinction lies not in his humour, wonderful though this was, but in his seriousness.

Members of the Foreign Office are often thought of as being if not eccentric then cynical and flippant. Pat Hancock was neither of these things. He possessed a deep sense of purpose, and he brought to bear on everything he did the highest standards of honour and professional competence.

He was calm and accurate. He largely master-minded the British contribution to the defeat of Khrushchev's ultimatum about Berlin in the late 1950s.

There was also a year in which he is believed to have killed more salmon than any other fisherman alive. He was not much interested in the social world. His favourite author was Milton.

Mrs M. D. LAW

Margaret Dorothy Law, who died at 83 after a short illness, was well-known in academic and publishing circles as the leading encyclopaedist of the day. Educated at St Leonard's School and Cambridge, after a short spell in advertising she joined the London office of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, and was its director 1925-43. In 1943 she was appointed Managing Editor of *Chambers' Encyclopedia* and between then and 1963 presided over its complete renewal. She was appointed OBE in 1951 for her services to scholarship.

Lady Holford, widow of Lord Holford, RA, FRIBA, the architect, died on January 9. She was Marjorie daughter of John Brook, and she was married in 1933. Her husband died in 1975.

Sir Peter Gadsten, Lord Mayor of London, photographed yesterday at a portrait sitting with the Spanish painter Theodore Ramos.

Service dinners

39th (City of London) Signal Regiment (Volunteers)

The Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs were the guests of honour at a dinner given by Lieutenant-Colonel the Officer in Charge of the City of London Signal Regiment (Volunteers) at 79 Wapping Street, London, EC2, yesterday.

Guests: Mr Mervyn Llewellyn (representative of the Earl of Malmesbury); Mr and Mrs John Smith, Captain and Mrs Jeanne Standish, twin daughter of Major Perry Standish and Mrs Christopher Watson.

HAC

The annual dinner of 1 Squadron, Honourable Artillery Company, took place yesterday at Armoury House, Major Geoffrey Goldbold, officer commanding, was in the chair and the guest of honour was Field Marshal Sir Geoffrey Baker. Other guests included:

General Sir John Bates, Major-General Sir Alan Blunt and W. H. D. Ritchie; General Sir John H. K. and Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. Lansley and Brigadier General

Major-General Sir Christopher Watson.

Cheltenham Ladies College

Because of the successes gained in the recent Oxford and Cambridge Scholarships and entrance examinations an extra day's holiday has been granted by Cheltenham Ladies College. Half-term will begin on Friday, February 15, and end on the evening of Wednesday, February 20. Members of the college gained four Open Scholarships, seven Exhibitions and twelve places.

Science report

Nitrogen fixation: Looking at genes

Some surprising results have

emerged recently from work aimed at understanding the genetic basis of the ability of some bacteria to convert atmospheric nitrogen directly into ammonia in the soil. Such nitrogen-fixation is in a way as important to the production of atmospheric nitrogen as can be made available to plants in a form that they can use. Molecular biologists have now found that the nitrogen-fixing genes in two types of micro-organism whose ancestors diverged more than 3,000 million years ago are remarkably similar.

This similarity has provided them with a way of looking more closely at the genes that control the way in which the blue-green algae, which are otherwise inaccessible to ordinary genetic analysis, it also opens up the intriguing possibility that the nitrogen-fixing genes in the various groups of bacteria have been acquired relatively recently in evolution from a single source by transfer from bacterium to bacterium. The other possibility, that these genes have remained unchanged through millions of years of evolution, would make the nitrogen-fixing genes one of the most stable groups of genes yet discovered in bacteria.

Work on nitrogen fixation has been stimulated recently by the increasing cost of artificial nitrogen fertilizers, which has made the prospect of transferring the ability to manufacture their own nitrogen fertilizer to important crops such as wheat and barley extremely attractive. But before that becomes even a remote possibility, the structure and organization of the complex set of genes that control that reaction must be understood in detail. So biologists are now dissecting the nitrogen-fixing genes

genes, not only of bacteria such as Rhizobium, which forms a close association with the leguminous plants, the pea and bean, and can confer the ability to fix nitrogen on the host plant. The genes of plants, however, are carried by a more exotic organism such as the blue-green algae which, living in conjunction with the water fern Azolla, constitute a major source of nitrogen for rice paddy fields.

Dr Barbara Maxton, Dr Douglas Ross and Dr Robert Haselwood, of the University of Oxford, wanted to analyse the nitrogen-fixing genes in the blue-green algae *Anabaena*, which in spite of its name is a close relative of the true bacteria and shares the evolutionary division between bacteria and blue-green algae. They are also looking at more exotic organisms such as the blue-green algae which, living in conjunction with the water fern Azolla, constitute a major source of nitrogen for rice paddy fields.

At the same time Dr Gary Ruykens and Dr Frederick Ausubel, of Harvard University, have been using the same techniques to look at the nitrogen-fixing genes in *Anabaena* and *Leptothrix*, two different species of nitrogen-fixing bacteria. They find that all are remarkably similar. Their conclusion is that either nitrogen-fixing genes are among the most conserved bacterial genes known, or that they have been disseminated between these species by transfer.

It was not until the advent of recombinant DNA techniques, by which genes from one organism can be isolated and propagated in more easily-studied bacteria, that Dr Haselwood and his colleagues could start investigating the nitrogen-fixing genes of *Anabaena*.

The first step was to construct a molecular probe to recognize the *Anabaena* genes and, taking a chance, they decided to use the same genes from a micro-organism, soil bacterium *Klebsiella*. That was a shot in the dark, for it was considered unlikely that those genes, separated by several hundred million years of evolution, would be able to be used to determine whether *Anabaena* too could have picked up those genes quite recently.

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SPORT

Golf

Oosterhuis is at his lowest as he hits his highest noon in Hawaii

From Peter Ryde
Honolulu, Feb 8

Peter Oosterhuis has at last got off to a good start. A first round 67 in the Hawaiian Open over the Waialae Course here left the Briton in a small group behind the leaders. George Burns and Leonard Thompson. Oosterhuis spent the day before the tournament fighting off 'flu and teed up today in a weak condition. "I felt too weak," he said, "to get angry if I began taking three putts again, so I thought I had better do something about it." He holed one of two long putts was never over par, and finished with two birdies to put him in a good mood for tomorrow.

A chip that rattled the stick hard and stopped three feet away gave him a birdie at the long first and was an instant morale booster. A double bogey at the fourth, where he left himself with a 90ft putt, but got down in two for his par. Out in the 3rd, he holed from 10ft at the tenth to save par. By now he was beginning to know his way around. A double in bed and his pitches to the fourteenth and the next two holes all finished 10 to 12ft away for pars. He finished in the grand manner.

At the seventeenth, hole, where the course joins the sea, he hit a six-iron in a strong cross-wind to three feet for a birdie and followed it with a bunker shot to six and single putts for another birdie. He had a 67 for the afternoon. All the scores round him were made in the morning before the wind, on which this course with its open greens de-

pends, had gained full strength. Watson's name was on one's lips. It is not heard so often as around so seldom by comparison. Burns, who won last week at the Crosby, was glad to be steered round the course by Watson in the first round and to see what he could learn from him. Respect for the man could hardly be more clearly implied. In fact, Burns drove better than Watson, what he did learn was the value of a constantly aggressive spirit.

At the ninth hole of his round Chi Chi Rodriguez is still the lightest man on tour, his side drawn like parchment over his bones. Trevino is the same height as he but weighs 181lb more. Rodriguez finished his round in 67, missing many fairways but putting beautifully, he attributed to starting to hold the putter cross-handed.

He had tried the method once before for four weeks and won a lot of money with it. "Then I quit, which shows you how smart I am. But then I'm Puerto Rican, so what do I know?" Married to a Hawaiian, he is everybody's host here this week. He looks worn out but takes the view that being tired relaxes one. His mean physique tired him out, except perhaps towards the end in a growing indecision over club selection. Still he played his cards well after starting on the 18th in 39. His round included some of the rough holes, including a short hole in wind which required a one-iron off the tee for long hitters. All players in Watson's trio with Fite and Burns failed to hit the green from the tee.

Thompson showed early what could be done by playing the first nine holes in 30 with a string of

MIAMI : Women's PGA Tournament, first round. (continued from page 1)

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

كالجلي

■ Stock markets
FT Ind 461.4 down 1.5
FT Gilts 66.53 down 0.52
■ Sterling
\$2.2985 down 15 points
Index 72.8 down 0.1
■ Dollar
Index 85.1 up 0.2
■ Gold
\$617.5 unchanged
■ Money
3 month sterling 171-171
3 month Euro \$14.5-14.5
6 month Euro \$14.5-14.5

IN BRIEF

Imperial closer to success on hotel chain

Imperial Group's \$630m (£275m) cash bid for Howard Johnson, the United States hotels and restaurant group, has moved significantly closer to success.

The group revealed in New York yesterday that a major legislative hurdle concerning liquor licences, which threatened to jeopardize the deal, has been overcome in 38 out of 40 states in which "Ho-Jo" is to communicate as we have never done before," he said.

Pressure is growing from militants within the CBI for it to toughen its official representations to the Government's Employment Bill.

The CBI's official policy formulated during an unusually lengthy meeting of its grand council in December is that, apart from comparatively minor changes, it supports the Bill for the time being. The support, however, was conditional on an attempt being made for stronger measures on trade union immunities and secondary picketing at a later date.

Members voted down their officers' recommendation for a moderate approach to industrial relations legislation by a narrow majority at the national council last November.

Since then, as a result of the steel strike and courts' rulings on secondary industrial action, the dissidents have become more vociferous in pressing for stronger legislation.

Sir John Methven has also urged the need for speedy reform but he said that "legislation will only touch the tip of the iceberg".

Referring to criticisms about earlier hawkish remarks, Sir John said that the time had come when "we can no longer stand idly by, watching the United Kingdom torn apart by strike action; when we can no longer watch our opportunities, in fact watch the future of British business, destroyed as strike follows strike".

A great many CBI members have strong feelings against compulsory strike action. Sir John reflected these yesterday when he said: "We've heard a lot in the last week about the unions protecting their right to strike."

"But what about respecting the equal right of their members to work? If we're going to have freedom and democracy, they really have it. Why cannot workers not directly involved in a strike have the option of not joining the strike if they so wish?"

He asked whether it was really in the interests of union members to jeopardize their jobs, those of other workers and to try and bring British industry to its knees.

With the private steelmakers going out of action industrialists are expected to start suffering serious shortages of components within the next few

£1.5m for new centre

The Leverhulme Trust is to provide £1.5m over five years to establish an independent Centre for the Analysis of Technical Change. The project is also to be supported by the Science Research Council and the Social Science Research Council.

750 to lose jobs

Up to 750 people will lose their jobs when Plat-Saco Lowell, the textile machinery division of Stone-Plant Industries closes its Oldham plant later this year. The company blames a world slump in demand for textile machinery.

Garment import quota

A quota of 115,000 garments has been imposed on imports into the United Kingdom of jackets and blazers from the Philippines during 1980. This follows a rapid rise in such imports, from 5,000 to 100,000 in the three years to 1979.

260,000 ton ship deal

Hitachi Shipbuilding and Engineering, Japan's main shipbuilder, has signed a contract with Chivalry Carriers of Liberia to build the world's largest iron carrier—260,000 tons dead weight. The cost will be around 13,000m yen (about £2.5m).

Ecuador £4m steady

A unit of the Hawker Siddeley Group has been awarded a £4m contract for supplying and erecting electrical substations and transmission line structures in Ecuador. The award, by Empres Electrica de Oriente, was made to the high voltage division of Hawker Siddeley Power Engineering.

Computer growth

Expenditure on computing services in Western Europe will match that of the United States by 1983 if the present 15 per cent growth continues, according to the European Computing Services Association. The Western European total for 1978 was \$5,700m (about £2,500m).

ARTHUR GUINNESS

Chairman told the annual meeting that while economic circumstances have affected group operating companies in varying ways, nevertheless the general trend in sales has continued to be upward.

PRICE CHANGES

Rises

Austin Trdng 'B' 40p to 590p
Decca 23p to 573p
Eiborg Gold 28c to 638p
I C Gas 31p to 750p
Int Thompson 20p to 450p

CBI chief gives warning over hasty legislation against unions

Patricia Tisdall
Management Correspondent

A warning against hasty industrial relations legislation was issued by Sir John Methven, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, yesterday. "We could have a disaster on our hands if we try in the present frenzied atmosphere to put hasty legislation on the statute book without proper consultation," Sir John told the National Federation of Building Trades Employers.

In an attempt to cool his members' growing anger over secondary disruption in the steel strike, Sir John Methven said that industrialists should seek improvements as much through their own actions as through legislation. "Our job is to communicate as we have never done before," he said.

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He asked whether it was really in the interests of union members to jeopardize their jobs, those of other workers and to try and bring British industry to its knees.

With the private steelmakers going out of action industrialists are expected to start suffering serious shortages of components within the next few

Expenditure surveys criticized

By Caroline Atkinson

The Government's spending White Paper, to be published next month, will probably contain less detail than has been given in the past. The Government believes in decentralizing public spending decisions where possible but it is nevertheless concerned about overall totals. However, the Treasury is not expected to predict in great detail what will happen to individual components of spending programmes in the later years covered by the White Paper.

The emphasis in the latest public spending round has shifted from "bottom up" planning, where spending totals are built up from the individual elements in the programmes, to "top down" planning.

At a conference held yesterday to discuss public spending control there was much criticism of the way the public ex-

penditure survey committee (PESC) system of medium-term planning has operated in the past.

Participants at the conference, held by the Royal Institute of Public Administration, said it led to consistent overspending, before the introduction of cash limits in the mid-1970s.

There was also criticism of the workings of cash limits and the tendency of politicians to use them as a "back-door" way of cutting the volume of spending.

However the present Government has been too busy cutting spending since it took office to pay much attention yet to ways of changing the system.

Spending will still be presented in the White Paper, in terms of prices in 1978 for spending on goods and services, and of 1979-80 for social security and other transfer payments.

By Peter Hill

Industrial Editor

Europe's steel producers are expected to urge the United States to revise its trigger price mechanism for controlling imports in talks later this month.

Mr Reuben Askew, a United States trade envoy, is due in Brussels later this month to talk with the EEC Commission against the background of American steelmakers filing anti-dumping suits against European companies.

US Steel claims that 8 million tonnes of steel is being dumped in America and the company has prepared eight suits seven of which were being filed this week.

Yesterday Eurofer, the West European Steel Producers Association, claimed that it did not believe the American companies would be able to prove the dumping charges.

Eurofer would like to see the present American trigger price system revised rather than a quota system being introduced

GEC raises Decca bid to £100m

By Andrew Goodrick-Clarke

General Electric Company bettered Racal's latest bid for Decca yesterday with an offer which could be worth more than £100m. Racal's response was to hold its position over the weekend with a statement saying it was considering a further offer, and it will do so on Monday, whether to withdraw or make a further counter bid.

It is clear though that the battle has reached its final stages. Neither GEC nor Racal will want to pay much more than this for Decca which underlined its problems yesterday by disclosing that its borrowings have risen from £55m to £66m at the end of last year.

This was forcefully expressed by Sir Raymond Pennoch, the CBI's president-designate and chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries, last week when he said that companies who manage to perform well in danger of being "sucked into the mire" and reduced to the level of the lowest.

The industrialists are, however, showing increasing frustration over secondary industrial action in general after three industry-wide strikes in the last year.

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PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Bonds

Choosing the right time to switch

Private investors tend to leave their money, once invested, to ferment until such times as they need it. But single premium bonds offer investors opportunities to switch their money from one investment market to another relatively easily.

The majority of insurance companies operate a range of funds to which bonds can be linked. These usually include those invested in property, equities, gilts, deposit investments where the capital value is guaranteed not to fall, or a mixture under the banner of a managed bond.

But investors do not make use of these switching opportunities. Insurance companies report that a very small number of bondholders—usually less than 5 per cent—actually move their funds.

These are "hard core" investors who switch their bonds regularly on the advice of insurance brokers who specialize in this particular field.

Usually, however, the bondholder gets little advice about when and where to switch. Insurance companies shy away from recommending such moves on the basis that this could cause them liquidity problems. They also say that as each bondholder's circumstances are different any general switching advice would not be of great benefit.

But they do issue bulletins giving their general views on investment markets for insurance brokers. Unfortunately,

these do not always reach investors who have bought bonds directly from the company rather than through an intermediary; it is these investors who could find them useful indicators if switching is contemplated.

The advantage of switching bonds from one internal fund to another as opposed to switching a portfolio from, say, equities to equities, are two-fold. First, the cost is much lower. Life offices dispense with their initial charges on these occasions, and make a charge which varies between 0.25 per cent and 1 per cent of the money switched. Secondly, the tax position remains unaltered.

One point to bear in mind is that some offices allow one to switch part of an investment while others insist that all or none moves. So take out one large one to avoid this problem. The minimum most offices permit you to switch is a sum equal to the minimum investment, usually £500 or £1,000.

Although insurance companies do not want to encourage frequent switching for its own sake some consider that investors do not make the most of these facilities. Performance tables show there is a good case for switching at certain times to consolidate capital gains in a market which has spent its growth for the time being.

For example, one could at the highest rates.

Sylvia Morris

Insurance



Bonhams' director Mr Leslie Gillham inspecting items in a private collection for valuation.

Valuing your possessions...

Even without a windfall bequest most people over the years build up a modest collection of, perhaps, nice furniture, a little jewelry, a print or painting or two, some silver and countless items of bric-a-brac which may or may not be worth something. But how many people really know the value of these particular contents of their homes?

Mr Leslie Gillham, the director in charge of valuations, used to be able to spend more time in the field than he can now. Normally, within three weeks of an initial inquiry (a week if it is a probate case) one of his four valuers will be round to spend a day estimating the value of a house's contents.

If the owner indicates that he has a special collection, then one of the specialists from the saleroom will accompany the valuer.

Although Bonhams will value the entire contents of a house

from the junk in the attic to the gardening gear in the shed, most people ask for a selective valuation. Mr Gillham reckons that his fee might be an expensive alternative to rule of thumb judgment about the replacement value of a double bed. If, as a result of the valuation, you should decide to sell any of the items valued through Bonhams within the next twelve months, then 50 per cent of the fee is refunded.

Bonhams charge 11 per cent on the first £10,000 (2 per cent up to £5,000 for probate purposes), 1 per cent on the next £40,000 (£20,000 probate) and 1 per cent on the rest. Christie's and Sotheby's charge the same at the bottom end of the scale, but the next bracket at 1 per cent rises to £100,000 before the lower fees become operative.

Margaret Stone

for these monthly increases, but each year's premium at renewal is calculated on the index-linked figure applicable at that time. If a householder refuses to have the value index-linked, or insures for a figure which, clearly, is too low, a penalty is likely to be imposed when a claim is made.

The effect is to scale down any claim (however small it may be) in the same proportion as the under-insurance. Most of us have a fairly shrewd, if optimistic, idea of the market value of our houses. But the cost of rebuilding will not come readily to mind.

The alternative is either to spend a lot of money on a professional valuation or to measure the total floor area of the house and divide with a chart and explanatory information—from which an approximate rebuilding cost can be calculated, depending on the type and size of the house, its location and the date when it was built—all this for the convenience of the insurers.

Anyway building societies have been active in increasing the insured values of the houses of their borrowers—which has, of course, increased their own commission income substantially.

However, insurers are growing increasingly tough with individual house owners. It is virtually standard practice for the insured value of a house to be linked to the Building Housing Cost Index. The value then increases each month in line with the increase in the index.

In the event of the total loss of a house, it is quite common for the index-linking to continue during the period of rebuilding—to take account of the increasing cost of the work.

No extra premium is charged

Much the same principle applies to the contents of a house, except that in assessing the value there is no chart to give guidance. It means a hasty going round the house, room by room, not forgetting food, clothes, sheets and blankets—because most people who make a guess pitch it much too low.

When calculating the value of your possessions, you need to know the basis on which claims will be settled. Is it "full replacement" otherwise known as "new for old"? If so, does that apply to everything (apart from the usual exclusion of clothes and household linen)? Or is it only items up to five years old?

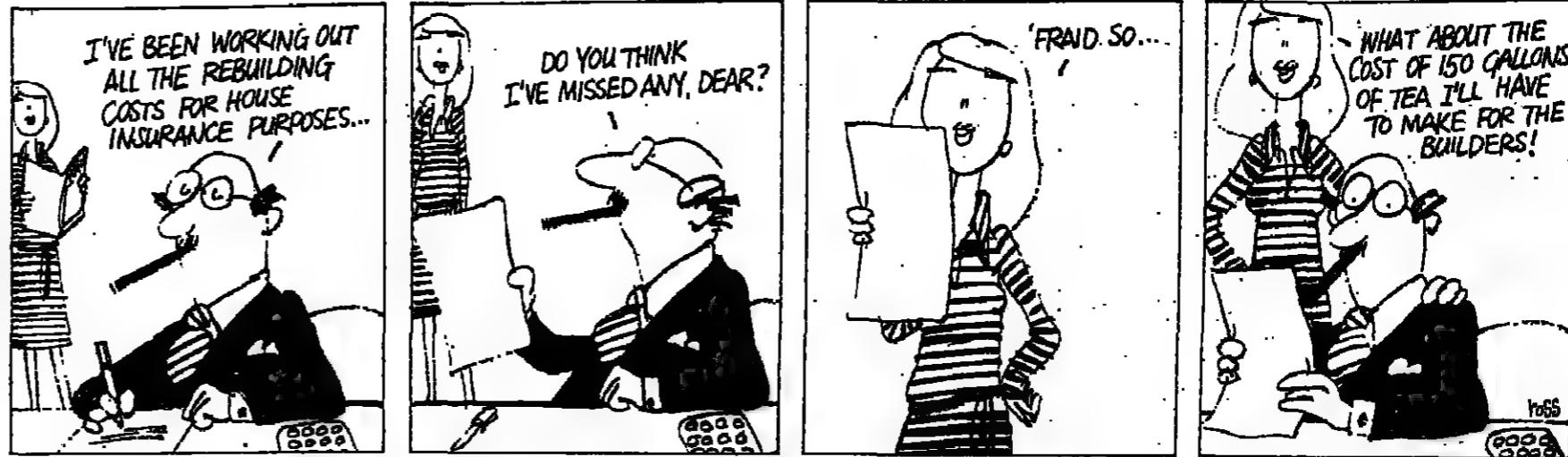
All items covered on a new-for-old basis should be insured for the full cost of replacing them brand new in the shops. Anything covered on an "indemnity" basis should be insured for the cost of replacement, less a fair deduction for "wear and tear", based on the use which they have had. Antiques should be insured simply on the basis of their estimated replacement cost.

It is not an easy operation. Once you have a figure, insurers will link it to a suitable index.

Remember, however, that most of us add to our possessions and do not get rid of them at the same pace. From time to time, therefore, the sum insured probably will need to be increased, quite apart from the increases resulting from the index-linking.

John Drummond

HOFF of HEYBRIDGE HEATH



Grouse

Index-linked savings are rightly popular and the Government has acknowledged the importance to the elderly of the Index-Linked Retirement Issue of National Savings Certificates.

Initially, the maximum holding was £500, it was then increased to £700, and last November the maximum holding was enlarged further to £1,200.

But not everyone is aged 60 or 65—and the differential age qualification for men and women is itself another grouse. The Government let the younger ages into the

act by issuing a new index-linked Save-As-You-Earn contract. The maximum investment was fixed at £20 a month—and there it has stuck since 1975.

The terms of existing contracts cannot be rewritten but the Government has two options open to it which would redress the balance. It could permit investors to hold index-linked SAYE contracts to the value of, for example, £40 a month; or what amounts to the same thing in the long run, issue a second series of index-linked SAYE

where the maximum holding is higher.

Taxing joint bank accounts

Bank deposit accounts raised their interest to 15 per cent recently. Could you tell me whether, for the purposes of declaring that income to the income tax authorities in the case of two people sharing a joint account the total capital in the account is deemed to be divided by two in equal parts?

Also, when one of the partners dies does his share of the joint account pass automatically to the other one without CTT? I have a joint deposit account with my daughter and would like her to become the owner of the total sum on my death. Would she have to pay CTT and, if so, on what proportion of the total joint capital in the account? (JD, Worcester Park)

The income from your joint account is deemed to belong equally to you and your daughter, assuming there is no evidence that some other rate of sharing should apply, and you are each liable to income tax at your personal rates on one-half of the income.

Assuming you are tenants in common, as is the normal case, the half share belonging to the first to die will automatically pass to the other. That half share will, however, have to be included as part of the deceased's estate which, if the value is sufficiently high, will attract capital transfer tax. The present level of exemption is £25,000, but this is expected to be raised in the next budget.

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Recently I was given £5,000 by a relative who had inherited the estate of her widowed mother. No mention of me was made in the will of the widow but my relative says she thought the gift would be in accord with her mother's wishes. Many years ago my wife and I had been of service to their family. Is this gift taxable please? If so, do I pay the tax or should the donor do so? (RS, Penzance)

The only tax which has to be

paid is capital transfer tax. If there is a liability it will fall on the person who made the gift—your relative in this case—although the recipient can, if he or she wishes, take over the payment. However, it is very likely here that no tax is payable, for the following reasons.

For the present tax year, 1979-80, your relative can make tax-free gifts up to a total amount of £2,000, plus £100 to each of any number of individuals. So if the exemption has not been claimed there is £2,100 available for a start.

Also, a tax-free sum of £2,000 for the previous year 1978-79 can be carried forward for one year only. If, therefore, your relative made no gifts in 1978-79, the £2,100 mentioned above can be increased to £4,100. As the gift of £5,000 exceeds this figure, the excess, that is £500, is called a "chargeable asset". However, chargeable transfers up to the first £25,000 are taxable at a nil rate, hence it is possible that in your case no tax liability will arise.

After taking out a 25-year endowment policy three years ago, at the age of 18, it would not seem that this is an expensive way of paying for a mortgage. I work as a civil servant. Would it be a better way of saving to cash it in a building society account? (RL, Guildford)

Are we right in thinking

that you have not yet obtained a mortgage? If this is so, a life policy is unlikely to be much help at this stage. It will not, for instance, help you to obtain a mortgage in the future and probably you will have to cash it in (probably getting a poor return) to meet the deposit on the house.

Although, therefore, you will lose, it could be best to cash in now and to invest with a building society, which will be of some help in obtaining a mortgage.

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EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

Consumer protection

The party's over—are you satisfied with the goods?

You must have been to a Tupperware selling party or one of its subsequent many variations, run by that friendly neighbour down the road. (If you haven't you almost certainly soon will given the growth of this particular marketing method that now turns over £200m a year).

But if later you have a complaint against the goods, do you corner that pleasant neighbour and upset relations between you? Do you feel after a party selling session that the social pressures there may have persuaded you into buying something you didn't want?

These and other problems associated with party selling and other types of direct selling—a sector which accounts for more than 50 million purchases a year worth £500m according to the returns from members of the Direct Sales and Service Association (DSSA)—have caught the watchful eye of Mr Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading.

The upshot this week was a revised code of practice agreed with the DSSA which believes it accounts for 85 per cent of the direct selling industry.

An Office of Fair Trading (OFT) study has established that the DSSA's existing code had already achieved much success, measured by the small number of complaints. This first code was launched when the DSSA was set up in 1965 after the initial growth of party selling imported from the United States in 1960 by the Tupperware company. The company makes precision plastic kitchenware and toys and is now a DSSA member and manufacturer in Britain.

The new code widens the protection for customers. The 29 members of the DSSA, whose products range from cookware and cosmetics to encyclopedias and clothing, will now abide by procedures which should take any embarrassment out of problems that arise after a selling party.

Invitation cards to parties will make the sales purpose of the party clear. Party hostesses will be told of their rights and responsibilities and be fully insured by the company involved. Orders placed at a party

will be subject to a cooling-off period, allowing for cancellation of at least 14 days, although the DSSA says some of its members already give a longer period of grace. Deposits are refundable on cancellation.

When ordering customers must be given written details of where to send queries or complaints. This avoids having to complain to the hostess.

The DSSA continues to provide opportunities to provide prompt conciliation in disputes unresolvable between customer and company. Copies of the new code of practice should be available at any sales party.

The code also covers other direct selling that takes place in the home such as of cosmetics and toiletries through local representatives of companies like Avon Cosmetics. But the DSSA is not concerned with the mail order industry, which has its own code of practice already, and the growing flood of home improvement items.

DSSA members have to satisfy the association about training standards of sales personnel, must not mislead in advertised or promotional claims, and guarantee quality of merchandise without infringing customers' common law or statutory rights.

Derek Harris



can I tempt you with another piece?

Round-up

Credit cards • New funds

Now is the time to start cutting back your debt balances with the credit card companies—that is unless you have not already done so following the increase in card interest rates to a maximum of nearly 31 per cent at the end of last year.

The Prime Minister has warned that next month's Budget could well include new curbs on credit cards and hire purchase. Both Barclaycard and Attacca are worried that any new restrictions would include tougher repayment rules.

The credit card companies fear that the Government may revert to the rules that were abolished in Denis Healey's 1978 budget. The rules required minimum repayment terms of £15 or 15 per cent—instead of the present £5 or 5 per cent—which caused a sharp cutback in credit card use. This could mean £20 a month more on the average credit—now nearly £200 outstanding.

Stockbrokers Sheppards and Chase, in conjunction with insurance brokers Sedgwick Forbes Bland Payne, is launching a unit linked annual pre-

mium policy, underwritten by Crown Life. After 10 years' investment, the policyholders can take a tax free cash sum or income from the plan.

A novel feature of the policy is that you can increase or decrease the annual premium by a minimum of £1,000—within a range of 125 per cent and 625 per cent from year to year provided the overall total at the end of the term is 10 times the initial premium, a device giving some flexibility in periods of stock market volatility.

Premium will be linked to the new Regency Fund, managed by Sheppards and Chase, which invests in gilts and equities.

Lloyds Bank at present managing £100m of unit trusts, is launching its first fund for four years. The Smaller Companies and Recovery Unit Trust will put 60 per cent of its portfolio in smaller companies with minimum market capitalisation of £1m and the balance in high yielding shares with good recovery potential.

Minimum investment is £250

and the estimated gross yield is 5 per cent.

Hot on its heels comes the International Technology trust due to see the light of day in a month's time while further trusts are planned for the autumn. Charges on the trust are an initial 5 per cent with an annual levy of 0.5 per cent. The manager retains the right to increase the annual rate to 0.75 per cent for both existing and new unitholders after three months' notice.

The life assurance industry had a buoyant 1979: figures issued last week show new annual premium business of £695m up 31 per cent, with unit-linked business accounting for £137m of the total compared with £87m in 1978. Single premium business showed a 20 per cent increase to £655m with sales of short-term guaranteed income bonds pushing up these sales by some £80m.

Antony Gibbs has reorganized and renamed one of the trusts it took over from the old Piccadilly Group. The Capital Trust now goes under the name of UK Market Leaders trust

and the estimated gross yield is 5 per cent.

On its heels comes the International Technology trust due to see the light of day in a month's time while further trusts are planned for the autumn. Charges on the trust are an initial 5 per cent with an annual levy of 0.5 per cent. The manager retains the right to increase the annual rate to 0.75 per cent for both existing and new unitholders after three months' notice.

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Unit trust performance

	A	B
GROWTH	16.8	163.8
FT All Shares Index	101.1	130.3
FT Ind Ord Index	132.9	237.7
Hand's/Cap Gwth	132.9	130.3
M & G/Magnum	132.9	201.6
GT Capital	132.9	136.1
Midland Spec Sits	135.7	198.8
Britannia Professional	129.9	216.2
Antony Gibbs Private	127.8	195.9
M & G/Recovery	127.4	192.4
Schrodars/Wagg/Cap	126.5	180.2
Perpetual Group Gwth	122.7	192.7
Bishopton Group	122.7	192.7
Target/Cap Gwth	120.7	169.1
Britannia Cap Accum	120.5	171.7
Antony Gibbs Growth	119.5	188.6
Bridge Capital	117.3	184.3
Schrodars Wagg/Cap	118.8	184.0
Midland Spec Capital	118.8	262.5
Barclays/Unit Accum	118.4	191.2
Manulife Growth	117.8	163.9
Baring Bros Stratton	117.6	149.9
Nat West/Capital Trust	116.6	134.2
Royal Trust Capital	116.3	138.8
Arthorbor Capital	116.2	159.6
TSB/Gen	115.9	173.6
Friends Prov Units	115.9	157.8
NPI Growth	115.6	157.8
Target/Growth	115.6	155.8
Sebag Capital	115.3	153.8
Art & Law	115.3	158.0
A-Hambo/Accum	115.1	129.2
Antony Gibbs Accum	114.7	170.4
Prov Life/Prolific	113.9	147.6
Barclays/Unicor Cap	113.0	147.8
Antony Gibbs Tech	113.0	159.5
TSB/Gen	112.5	142.8
Britannia Assets	112.3	157.7
Hill Samuel/Capital	111.6	152.4
Stewart Brit Capital	110.2	154.9
Nat Com/Capital	110.0	151.5
Arthorbor Growth	107.9	174.1
Target/Growth	107.6	154.0
Carlton	107.4	149.7
New Court Equity	106.5	138.8
Gartmore Inse Asst	106.5	138.0
Schlesinger Nyl Yield	106.5	119.6
M & G/Gen	106.4	126.1
Wiles Church	106.2	146.0
Midland Drayton Cap	106.0	131.0
Abbey/Capital	105.5	147.8
Capel Capital	105.4	148.5
TSB/Scot	102.2	139.1
A-Hambo Oceas Earnings	102.1	130.8
Ulster/Growth	100.4	113.8
T & G/Marketbrough	100.3	129.9
S & P/Capital	98.7	126.6
Lon Wall/Spel Sits	97.6	126.6
Lon Wall Cap Growth	93.2	131.8
Cosmopolitan Growth	90.5	131.8

The tables show the values on February 1, 1980 of £100 invested 12 months ago (A) and 3 years ago (B), income reinvested and based on offer-to-offer price. Figures supplied by Planned Savings, 150-152 Caledonian Road, London N1 9RD.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Equities firm despite day of uncertainty

The stock market ended the account in a confused but generally firm condition yesterday as news items continued to sway market sentiment.

Equities ended off the top after some precautionary marking down as a result of the steel talk, and gilts were mostly used, where changes of oil.

Oil was the dominant feature of the day when after a fairly firm start they burst into life upon rumours that Saudi Arabia was planning to cut back on production because of the threat of supply outrunning demand.

Equities had begun the day on a confident note in the hope of a final settlement in the steel wages dispute, while eagerly awaiting GEC's latest salvo in its fight to gain control of

Espresso. The assault on householders by the home improvement companies, from double glazing and replacement windows to cavity wall insulation and spray-on treatments for outer walls, is being looked at by Mr Borrie.

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Stock Exchange Prices

Nervous close to account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Monday. Dealings End, Feb 22. Contango Day, Feb 25. Settlement Day, March 3.

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

*Ex dividend, ^{Ex Div.} & Forwards dividend, ^{Ex Div.} is corrected price, a interim payment passed. Price as of market date. Dividend and yield exclude a special payment. A bid for company, ^{Ex} Pre-merger figures. Forecast earnings, ^{Ex} capital distribution. ^{Ex} Rights, ^{Ex} scrip or share split. Tax free, ^{Ex} Price adjusted for base deadlines. ^{Ex} No

Shoparound with Beryl Downing

The techniques he has developed can be applied to several different types of bed. First he has special designs of his own, based on antique beds, which can be made in mahogany or pine from £400. A mattress and hangings will cost from £150 each.

He also has a selection of pairs of original antique beds and you can choose a pair of these and have a bed designed in perfect proportion for around £700. And if you already have a mattress which you find particularly comfortable, you can even have a bed built round that.

The beds are made by craftsmen in Northumberland and sent to The Bedchamber in long strips. Hugh Blackett then delivers and puts them up himself—an expert task which can take up to five hours. He will make beds anywhere in the country, although outside the London area an extra delivery charge has to be made.

Whichever variation you choose, you will get expert help from interior designer Liz Wilhams, who will advise on the hangings that will best complement your bed.

Average hangings take about 30 to 40 metres—they don't close all round the bed as they did when they were needed as draught excluders—but special beds with sunburst casings, like the one in the picture, can take as much as 80 metres.

If you visit the shop you may be surprised, as I was, to find that the single beds in particular are quite delicate and would not be overpowering even in a small room. Wriggling there, you won't be able to resist the selection of antique and modern patchwork quilts which vary from £40 for the all-white quilts traditionally made by Durham miners' wives, to £350 for a modern American quilt.

Which reminds me of a peculiar aspect of the American fondness for everything king-sized. All the hotel bedrooms I occupied when I was there had at least two beds, each big enough to hold four people, and one had three. A throw back to the Great Bed of Ware—or just an expression of the natural American desire to be bolted together?"

The sort of beds that Queen Elizabeth I was alleged to have slept in with such peripatetic ease were usually oak and of the hideously proportions of a double decker bus, so the idea of having a four poster bed today would seem impossible for anyone living in anything less than a stately home.

I discovered this week that this is not at all the case. Four posters can be as light and elegant as you care to make them, and to prove the point you have only to take a trip to The Bedchamber at 3 Cadogan Street, London SW3.

"It is all a question of getting the proportions right," says Hugh Blackett, who opened the shop 18 months ago. "We experimented for a long time before we perfected them and we also had to find exactly the right woods that wouldn't warp or split when the frames were bolted together."

Below: Four poster bed specially designed round the original antique posts, has a sunburst ceiling and hand-painted bedcover £5,000 from The Bedchamber, 3 Cadogan Street, London SW3



■ It is not only the Barbados-bound who look for swimwear in February. Those who have found, from bitter experience, that leaving the search until June simply means paying more for less are wise enough to snap up the bargains as soon as they appear.

And bargains there are this year. The chain stores are doing some excellent one-piece suits in fabrics that are light enough to feel good in the water and elastic enough to hold in the undisciplined curve without actually restricting circulation.

As you can't tell from looking at swimsuits, there might look like on girl-shaped girls, we had a grand modelling session in this office, much to the surprise of any passing pigeons.

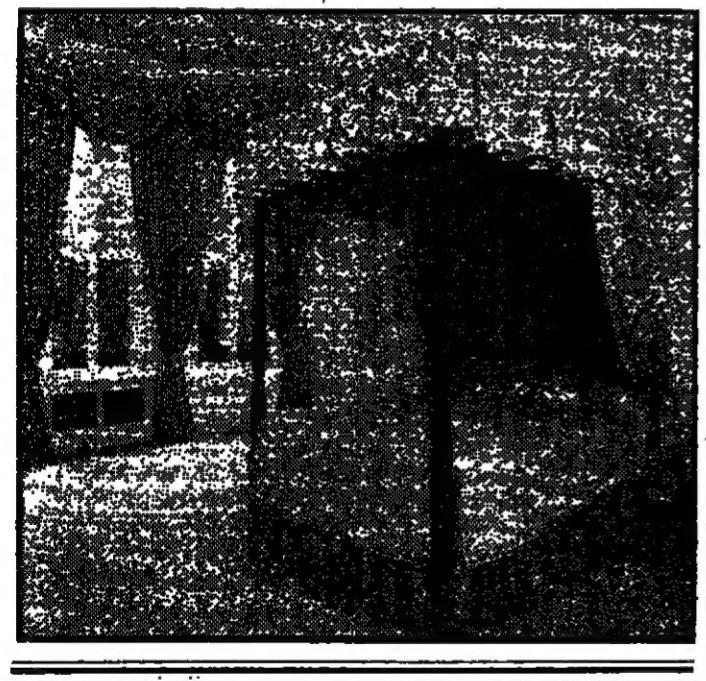
The shapes that did most for all our Figure types—small, medium and bigger than last year—were the two we have photographed. The Tesco one with its elegant one-shouldered look comes in black, blue or brown, all with white, in sizes 12, 14 and 16. It is made of 85

per cent nylon, 14 per cent Elastane and costs £6.50 from larger Tesco Home and Wear stores from mid-February.

The bandeau-top style is from the Arena range, which also has several good plain styles with deep cut backs. It is in 81 per cent polyester, 19 per cent lycra and is very flattering for curvaceous figures. Best in black, but also available in several colours, in sizes 32, 34, 36, and 38 inch at £12.99 from Barbers, Kensington High Street and Army and Navy branches in London, Guildford, Camberley and Chichester.



Photograph by Peter Abrahams



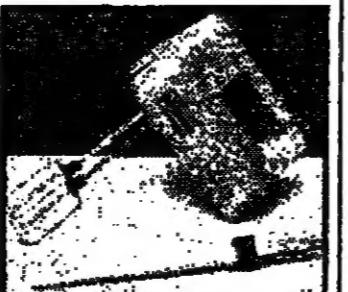
■ Those interested in pottery techniques will not want to miss the exhibition which opened this week at the Craftsmen Potters Shop, 7 Marshall Street, London, W1, which shows a very definite trend away from the restrained brown glazes which have dominated the scene for so long.

The work of eight British potters is on show, varying remarkably in texture and concept, but showing a certain unity in their feeling for distinctive colour. Ruth Franklin uses it at its most strident in her comic pop art pieces, patterned like leopards and tigers. Nigel Wood blends subtle shades of blue and khaki on flat, Oriental-style dishes and Even Henderson marbles it into a huge, asymmetrical jar that looks as if it has been carved out of solid turquoise. If you have £80 and can snap it up immediately, I envy you.

Some of the most fragile-looking pieces come from Mal Magson who is, I am told, the only potter to be working solely with the agate technique, which reverses the usual procedure of shape before decoration and instead starts with the pattern.

She mixes her clay into batches of different colours and then presses one on top of the other to form the sort of scratch you would find in a cross section of agate.

The pattern sections are formed from the chopped up, coloured "dough" and laid out flat, while the spaces between are filled in with plain clay. The whole is then laid in a mould to take on its final shape—particularly successful in the deeper dishes which show the pattern going right through inside out. Bowls cost from £16 to £30 and there are small cylindrical boxes from £8-£10. The exhibition continues until February 16.



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Those of us who have been living for years in the hope that if we pretend red tape isn't there it will go away, will take comfort.

■ An electric carving knife seems to me to be an unnecessary extravagance, even if it does prevent your Sunday joint from looking as if it has been in the rubble drier. But when it can be converted into a hand mixer, it begins to make economic sense.

I am not often attracted to dual-purpose gadgets as, they usually do neither job as well as two separate tools... would



they know a little bit more about a place than other people know."

Certainly it is the curious and the anecdotal that I found most entertaining in the 9th edition of the paperback Blue Guide to England (£6.95) which was published last week. All the scholarship is still there, perhaps with a slight overdose, still, of the editorial we but, I was fascinated to know that the Ypres Tower is locally pronounced by the inhabitants of Rye as "Wipers" and that Medmenham, was the scene of blasphemous orgies held by the Hell Fire Club in the eighteenth century.

The country is divided into five parts, south-east, south-west, central, eastern and northern England, each in a logical sequence so that the traveller can follow routes which will provide the richest variety of interest, and I admit that I was totally captivated by the work of Stuart Rossiter's uncompromising attitude to administrative boundaries. "As far as possible, where the bureaucratic nonsense is a hindrance rather than a help, it has been ignored," he says in his preface.

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pare with the free standing types if you do a lot of heavy mixing—but it is excellent for whisking a single egg white, for creaming butter and sugar or for blending lumpy sauces. The usual price is £1.95, but until the end of February will be £1.25—much less than if you bought a electric carver and mixer separately.—and it is available to branches of Rumbelows.

■ If you are prepared to pay a high price to outdo everyone else on the ski slopes now and the beach later, take note of the latest status symbol sports sunglasses with a contour name tag.

There are plenty of top names making sunglasses, but Nina Ricci says that theirs are different because their optical quality gradient CR39 lens is also available as a mirror lens, which they think is ideal for combatting bright, light, bouncing off snow or shimmering seas.

The translucent frames are hand painted with vertical bands of red, white and blue or with white and one other colour. I'll just whisper the price—£57.50—but then Nina Ricci do pride themselves on being the designers of the most exclusive and expensive sunglasses. You can find their range at Harrods, Selfridges, Dicks and Jones in London or Keats Malls, Manchester, Rockhams, Birmingham and major department stores.

Below: Cotton holder for crusty rolls or fresh fruit; packs flat and unfurled when the centre ribbons are pulled together. In cream, brown or navy cotton.

With floral edging, £3.95 from The Helpful Shop, 84 Southampton Row, WC1

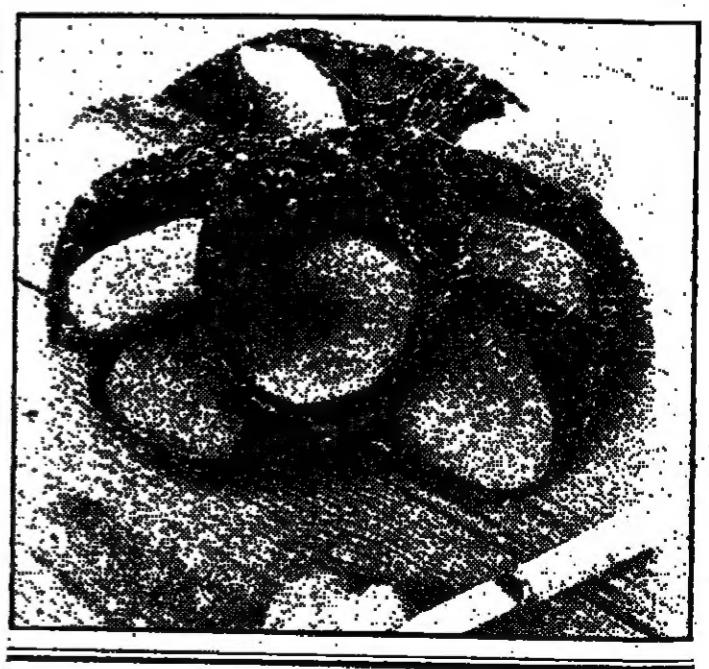
and Annabella's, 130 Oatlands Drive, Weybridge, Surrey, or £4.49 including postage direct from

No 22, Rhenish, Battle Foch, Brecon, Wales LD3 9RW.

■ My picture last week of the glamorous heart-printed nightie, produced a postscript which confirmed my suspicion that, far from being equal, the male and female of the species don't even talk the same language.

A friend, who suffers from particularly bad circulation as the result of an accident some time ago, has her husband perform a loving little nightly ritual of wrapping her nightie right under her feet and cocooning her in blankets so that she is entirely insulated from chill draughts.

The problem of her cold feet is clearly of some concern and for one heady moment last Saturday, her husband obviously thought his nighty task had been superseded by a new invention. "Look—just what you need," he said, reading the caption aloud, "A nightie with shoe string straps".



Left: Victorian square pillowcase with hand-crocheted lace, £18.50. French cache-pot with purple pansies, £29.50. Tablemat embroidered with strawberries, £1.20 and matching napkin £1.20. Hand-painted carafe and matching glass, £16.30. All from Graham and Green, 48 Elgin Crescent, London W11.

Photograph by Trevor Sutton

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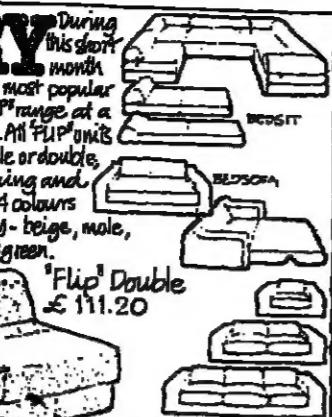
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HOME & GARDEN

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SIDE66 BUTTESLAND STREET
LONDON N1 Tel: 01-253 3206/7
(OH PITFIELD STREET, near
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Top Quality Danish Furniture

at DIRECT SELLING PRICES!

View at leisure our vast selection of
ROSEWOOD
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FURNITURE &
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Credit Facilities!open
SUNDAY
9 AM - 2 PM
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FLIPS
20%
OFFDuring this short month
we offer the four most popular
units in the 'FLIP' range at a
saving of 20%. All FLIP UNITS
convert into beds, single or double,
and you have a choice of 4 colours
in a wide range - corduroy - beige, mole,
dark brown and olivegreen.Flip Double £111.20
Normal M.F.J. price £99.95
For just £59.95Open the Executive Home Office
and you have a complete self-contained
workroom with built-in desk, filing, finisher, Class
A and it's a smart, new cabinet in oak-style finish.
Amazing! And an amazing bargain.

31" (closed), 63" wide (open), 43" high, 16" deep.

FLIP RANGE
INCLUDES COUCH AND SOFAFlip Single £55.60
Table Lamp in brown
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Bathroom suites in 28 colours
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attention and guidance given to
you by experienced staff. John
Howard Bristow, 01-253 3206/7
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Bassett Road, Islington, N.1.
Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30 p.m. (exc. Bank Hols).
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Proudly Presents: A Do Live
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advertisements that have
appeared, other than cancella-
tions or alterations, tel

Classified Queris, Depart-
ment 01-537 1234, ext. 7880

All advertisements are subject
to the conditions of acceptance
of Times Newspapers Limited,
copies of which are available
on request.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD.

We make every effort to avoid
errors in advertisements. Each
one is carefully checked and
proof read. When thousands of
advertisements are handled
each day mistakes do occur and
we make the mistake. If you check
your ad and if you spot an
error, report it to the Classified
Queris Department immediately
by telephoning 01-537 1234
(ext. 7880). We regret that we
cannot be responsible for more
than one day's insertion
insertion if you do not.

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL COPY IS 24 HOURS.

Advertisements to copy is 3.00 pm
prior to the day of publication.
For Monday's issue the dead-
line is 12 noon Saturday. On all
cancellations, Stop Number
will be issued to the advertiser.
On any subsequent queries
regarding the cancellation, this
Stop Number must be quoted.

"Jesus answered, 'I am the only
one who can be born again,
and cannot see the kingdom of
God.' John 3: 3.

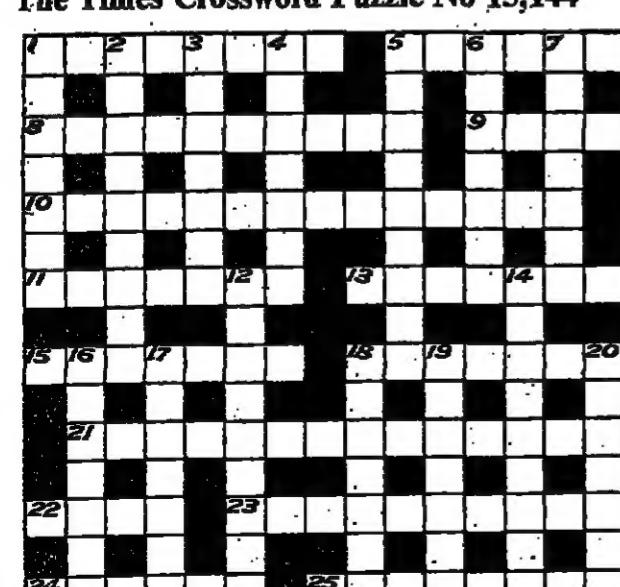
BIRTHS

BURGESS—On Feb. 7th, at East
Crouch Hospital, Mrs. Christine
"Sister" and Nigel—a son
—Blackburn.—On Feb. 7th,
John and David—a daughter—
CLARKE—On Feb. 7th, to
John and Mary—Samuel
—Lancs.—On Feb. 7th, to
Dr. S. T. Tressler, Hospital, Wim-
bledon, to Jill, wife of Michael de
MARSH—On February 7th, to
Carol and Stuart—a daughter—
ST. GEORGE—On January 30th,
John and Elizabeth—Richard
Richard—a son (Arthur Patrick).
SMITH—In Hamburg to Carol
and John—Thorne and Nigel—
mother of James and daughter of
Barry and Barbara—Barry, February
14th at 2.30 p.m.

IN MEMORIAM

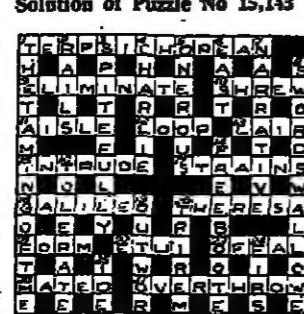
COLLISON, DOROTHY, ETHEL
Dearest, "Showdown" for the
brave of the brave, Anne—
February 1980. Always beloved.
W.H.M.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,144



5 Repeating it before imbibing
at tea-time (9).
6 Soldiers point guns upwards
one fired upwards (7).
7 Reveals changes in a small
number (7).
12 The way Simon holds the
scenery up (9).
14 Alliance of 4 with one, on
missing the end of it (9).
16 Warning from former liberal (7).
17 Colossal, it makes bird
panic, losing head (7).
18 Condition if one's caught by
an Irish terrorist (7).
19 One who burgled a famous
hotel (7).
20 Sniff brightly-coloured
flowers (7).

Solution of Puzzle No 15,143



MARRIAGES

RAYMOND ALBRECHT, 100
Farnham, Surrey, to Linda, 21,
of New Zealand. Henry to Linda. Now at
SAVILLER, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, on 10th
February, 1980, at Cheltenham Old
Church. Neville Salvato to Sheila
Gibson.

DEATHS

ANDREW—On February 6th, 1980,
Ackering, of the White House
Pulchritud, Bedford, aged 81.
Survived by his wife, 80, and
grandchildren of Charles, Fred-
rick and Margaret Ackering, of
Houghton, 21, and David, 19.
Burial: Funeral service on
Tuesday, Feb. 11th, at All Saints
Church, 3 pm on Monday, 11th
February, 1980, at Ackering.
GUNNAR ERIKSSON—Aged 66, of
Hastings—On 7th February, Ade-
Hospital, Midhurst, dearly-loved
wife of the late Charles Scott
Shirley, 82, and David, 21, and
loved grandmother. Funeral
service on Friday, 10th February,
1980, at All Saints Church, 3 pm.
GUNNAR ERIKSSON—To reject capital
punishment, but accept abortion.
ARE YOU GLAD there was no Abor-
tion Act around when you were
born? If you are, then you should
support the 1980 ATC 21857
THOUSANDS of young children
will be born to mothers who
will die in hospital. Write to
ERIKSSON, 1000 ATC, 21857.

CARUTH—On Feb. 6th, 1980,
suddenly, at Wyke, Gillingham,
Kent, 80, widow of Major (Retired)
John Caruth, 80, and mother
of General Sir John Caruth, 71,
and General Sir John Caruth, 69,
and General Sir John Caruth, 65.

COMBEN—On February 6th, 1980,
Bath, 80, beloved wife of her
husband of 55 years, and
loved grandmother. Burial: All
Saints Church, 3 pm on Monday,
10th February, 1980, at Bath.

DAVIDSON, BEATRICE ALICE—per-
sonal, on 7th February, aged 92
years, widow of Major (Retired)
John Davidson, 92, and mother
of General Sir John Davidson, 71,
and General Sir John Davidson, 69.

GRANT, PETER—On February 6th,
1980, beloved wife of her husband
of 55 years, and mother of her
children. Burial: All Saints Church,
3 pm on Monday, 10th February,
1980, at Bath.

HARRIS—On February 6th, 1980,
peacefully, in her home, a son
and daughter of Michael and
Christina Harris, 30, and a
grandson, 3.

LEATHAM—On February 6th, 1980,
peacefully, in her home, a son
and daughter of Michael and
Christina Leatham, 30, and a
grandson, 3.

MCGRATH—On February 6th, 1980,
peacefully, in her home, a son
and daughter of Michael and
Christina McGrath, 30, and a
grandson, 3.

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